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Ne'eman acquitted of all charges

By LIAT COLLINS

It was still not clear last night whether former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman wants to return to the cabinet, after being acquitted yesterday of charges of perjury and suborning a witness, nor what post he would get if he does return.

PM is torn between loyalties, Page 3

Likud Party sources speculated that initially he might be appointed a minister-without-portfolio, particularly as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu seems hesitant to remove Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi in the aftermath of the Bar-On Affair. Netanyahu and Ne'eman met yesterday.

Coalition MKs - particularly members of the National Religious Party and Shas - who met with the prime minister yesterday, called for Ne'eman to be reinstated. MKs on the Left praised Ne'eman's acquittal, but were divided on whether he should return to the ministry.

Following the verdict, Ne'eman said: "I want first and foremost to praise God - because justice is the Lord's - who has shown my innocence as clearly as the midday sun." He thanked his family, friends, and acquaintances for their support and said that, as a religious man, he believes that, "We all suffer tests... I hope and pray that no one [else] ever has to go through the experience of being tried on the grounds of an unfounded indictment."

Netanyahu, in response to Ne'eman's acquittal, said: "One of the things that really angered me was the haste and speed with which people passed judgment." He recalled several recent trials in which Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan and several mayors were found innocent of various charges.

"The speed and inconsiderate case with which some public figures blame other public figures without the matter being proven in court, in my opinion, creates a dangerous norm in our public life," said Netanyahu. "I suggest that those

who say the law is above all else should themselves respect the law and the basic principle that a person is innocent until found guilty in court."

After the acquittal, Ne'eman's lawyer, Dan Sheinman, slammed the judicial system for presenting indictments "too easily."

"There should never have been an indictment in the first place," he said of the charges against Ne'eman. "The whole judicial system should draw its conclusions and learn its lessons from this indictment and the trial."

Coalition and Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan called for Ne'eman to be reinstated as justice minister and said there are "several people - including politicians, journalists, and members of the legal profession - who owe Ne'eman an apology."

Hanegbi told reporters he congratulated Ne'eman on the verdict and "had identified with him to a certain extent." He would not say whether he would evacuate his position for Ne'eman. Hanegbi asked that no one cast blame on the State Attorney's Office for indicting Ne'eman, saying it does its job faithfully.

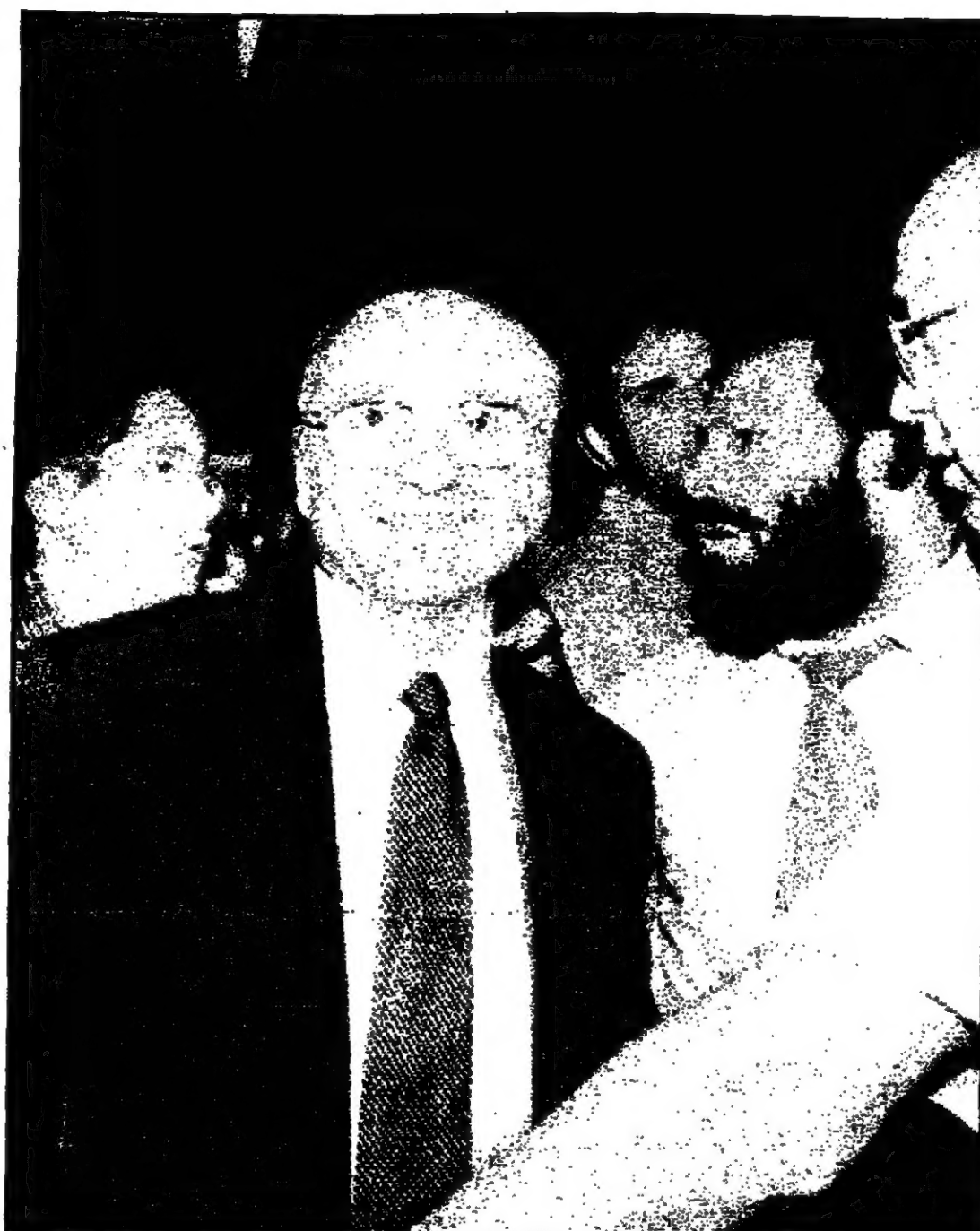
Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein reacted similarly.

"It's easy to attack the State Attorney's Office; to attack the Supreme Court. It's much more difficult to be constructive," he said. "We all, the whole public, must realize they work based on clear professional considerations and it's natural that sometimes the court has a different opinion [from the state attorney's]. There is nothing wrong with that."

State Attorney Edna Arbel told reporters she was still studying the verdict. She noted that the court had not said that her office had erred in indicting Ne'eman, but had simply accepted his attorney's arguments. Her office has 45 days to appeal the verdict.

Arbel refused to say whether she would continue to serve as state attorney if Ne'eman returns to the ministry, saying only, "Time will tell."

Shas leader Aryeh Deri told Army Radio that former attorney general Michael Ben-Yair had been motivated "solely by irrelevant consid-



Former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman is congratulated by supporters at Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

erations when he pressed for Ne'eman to be brought to trial." Deri said he had always been sure of Ne'eman's innocence, and that he is not sure that Ne'eman would

even want to return to the government after this experience. National Religious Party faction chairman Hanan Porat said the prime minister should reinstate

Ne'eman, "otherwise the charges will have succeeded in harming [him] despite his innocence."

See NE'EMAN, Page 18

State attorney considering appeal

By RAINE MARCUS

Former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman was acquitted yesterday by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court on charges of perjury and suborning a witness.

Judges Dan Arbel, Edna Beckenstein and David Rosen rejected prosecution claims of criminal intent on Ne'eman's part, ruling that mistakes Ne'eman made in an affidavit to the High Court of Justice were simply errors, and corrections he later made to the affidavit were not made with the intent to mislead.

The acquittal came after an expedited trial, in which Ne'eman's lawyer Dan Sheinman requested that prosecution witnesses provide written testimony instead of appearing in court.

After the decision, prosecutor Ruth David met State Attorney Edna Arbel, who signed the indictment, to discuss the implications and weigh the possibility of an appeal to district court.

Senior legal sources said the acquittal will create waves in the State Attorney's Office, which has been accused of indicting public figures too quickly.

The charges against Ne'eman arose from the ongoing trial of MK Aryeh Deri. Prosecutors charged

that Ne'eman made a false declaration to the High Court regarding an alleged attempt to persuade prosecution witness Martin Brown to change his testimony. Ne'eman was also accused of having lied about when he first met Deri.

But the judges concluded that Ne'eman had been open and cooperated completely with investigators, and had simply made a mistake about the date in question.

In acquitting Ne'eman, the judges criticized police for failing to question the accused's law partner, Ehud Sol, who helped Ne'eman write the affidavit to the High Court. Sol's testimony was first heard when he appeared in court as a defense witness.

In their decision, the judges noted that Ne'eman had written the affidavit the day he was appointed justice minister.

"The day a man is appointed a minister in Israel is no ordinary one...therefore it is acceptable that certain mistakes be made," the judges ruled.

The judges noted that, during the investigation, Ne'eman offered to take a polygraph test to disprove prosecution claims that he had been present when Brown wrote a letter to him. Police refused the offer, as they did his proposal to phone Brown in their presence.

BACKGROUND

Justice portfolio could trigger cabinet reshuffle

By SARAH HONIG

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu must now figure out how to deal with two men who have claims on the Justice portfolio.

Former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman has not said he wants the portfolio back, but neither has he said he doesn't. And Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi has made no secret of the fact that he wants to keep it. A number of solutions to the portfolio problem were bandied about among coalition members yesterday.

The first was that Ne'eman wait until the High Court of Justice rules on whether Hanegbi, whose performance in the job was criticized by the state attorney in the report on the Bar-On Affair, can continue in office. Then, under one pro-

text or another, a major reshuffle would be triggered and Ne'eman would end up with his old portfolio.

Hanegbi's removal would be explained by the fact that he was told from the start that Ne'eman had a prior claim on the portfolio, and that it would be returned to him if he was acquitted.

Hanegbi could then be returned to the Health Ministry - though he never really liked the post - and Health Minister Yehoshua Matza could be given the diminutive Science portfolio relinquished by Ze'ev Begin.

Another scenario is that Ne'eman would be made a minister-without-portfolio until the reshuffle were possible.

See SHUFFLE, Page 2

Heavy fighting reported in Lebanon

By DAVID RUDGE

Fierce battles were reported raging in south Lebanon last night, with Israel Radio and television reporting that IAF aircraft took part in the action. This was followed by heavy IDF artillery bombardments of the area, with over 350 shells being fired within two hours, according to the reports.

The fighting was reported to be centered around the Zumiyya crossing along the northeastern edge of the security zone. According to the reports, the exchanges erupted around 9 p.m. and were still continuing after midnight.

Last night's fighting follows a marked escalation in clashes and attacks by Hizbullah on IDF and SLA targets. In a clash Wednesday

morning in the Ali Tahr hill range, in the eastern sector of the zone, the IDF Spokesman said at least one Hizbullah gunman was killed, while there were no casualties among the IDF soldiers.

Hizbullah, in statements issued in Lebanon, said one of its fighters had been killed in clashes with IDF troops in the Tel Dabsha on Wednesday.

In a separate incident late Wednesday night, Hizbullah gunmen fired Sagger missiles at two IDF tanks in the Barasheet area in the western sector of the security zone.

There were no casualties from the missile attack, although one of the tanks was damaged. IDF gunners returned fire.

Beirut radio stations reported that there had been heavy shelling by IDF gunners in

response to that attack, with some of the shells falling close to Barasheet and other villages north of the zone.

There were no reports of any casualties from the shelling.

Meanwhile, Israel Radio reported yesterday that the IDF had received warnings that terrorist organizations intended to try to kidnap soldiers in the security zone.

The radio quoted a report in the Arabic-language weekly *Al-Watan Al-Arabi* that Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command group was behind the kidnapping plot.

The radio report said the IDF was treating the information very seriously and had instructed troops in south Lebanon to take the necessary precautions.

Uri Lubrani, government coordinator on Lebanon, said on Israel Radio yesterday that Iran has shipped large quantities of weapons to Hizbullah via Syria in the past four months. These include some more advanced weapons than those Hizbullah has possessed so far. They were shipped in 37 flights aboard jumbo jets.

There have been unconfirmed reports that some of these shipments may have included long-range Katyusha rockets capable of reaching Haifa's seaside suburbs from Lebanon.

Lubrani, speaking at a conference in Washington, said Russia and China continue to provide Tehran with technology to produce nuclear weapons. He said Israel would do all it is in power to prevent Iran from obtaining non-conventional weapons.

First in a series of five articles:

The 'Teshuva' movement: Gaining new adherents among the young and disadvantaged

By DAN IZENBERG

There are those who would argue that the real battle for the Israeli soul is not being fought in the media, on Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan or at the site of the Ramat Aviv mall. It is being fought, they say, in the poor neighborhoods and development towns. The foot soldiers in this campaign are those activists in the *hazara betshuva* organizations - many of them funded by the state or other public bodies - who aim to turn secular Jews into haredim.

In many cases, those who enter the haredi fold are well-adjusted adults who, for reasons of their own, are dissatisfied with the values and customs of secular cul-

ture. But in others, the *hazara betshuva* activists deliberately target the weaker elements in society, believing them to be the most impressionable and therefore the likeliest to accept a haredi way of life. And in some cases, the *teshuv* movement seeks to wean secular children and teenagers away from their homes and the traditions and values of their families.

Such a campaign is currently being waged in poor neighborhoods throughout the country, on the assumption that children coming from disadvantaged homes, sometimes dysfunctional homes, will be more vulnerable to the haredi message.

In the classic sense, *teshuv* - translated as atonement or repentance - is the obligation of every

Jew. It is the process of on-going soul-searching and self-assessment which the believing Jew must carry out constantly to improve himself and make sure he does not slacken in his observance. But the term *hazara betshuva*, used by these religious groups to describe their goal, has come to mean the "return" of non-observant or unaffiliated Jews to strict halachic observance.

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IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

Acquittals stir debate

Ya'acov Ne'eman: Not guilty. Rafael Eitan: Not guilty. Herzliya Mayor Eli Landau: Not guilty. Petah Tikvah Mayor Giora Lev: Not guilty. Eliat Mayor Rafi Hochman: Not guilty.

The above is a partial list of high-level public officials charged in recent years with various offenses and then acquitted in court. Even though other indictments, most notably against former Jewish Agency head Simcha Dinitz and Shas MK Yair Levy, have held up in court, yesterday's acquittal of former justice minister Ne'eman has stirred the debate whether the State Attorney's Office has gotten a bit trigger-happy when it comes to public officials.

"Definitely," said Tel Aviv lawyer Avraham Pachter, formerly a senior deputy district attorney in the Tel Aviv district attorney's office.

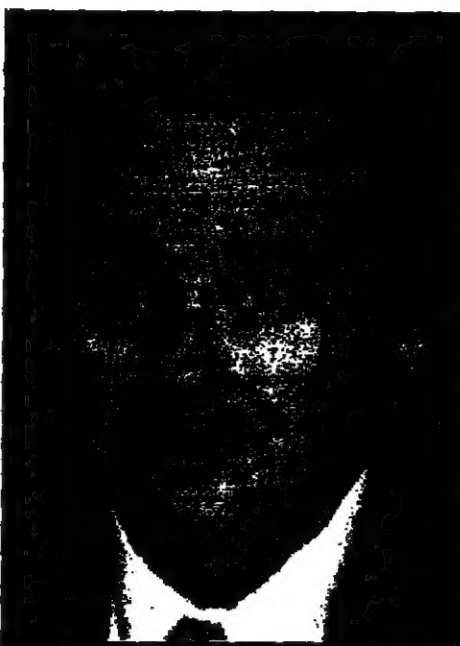
In cases involving public officials, Pachter said, "if it is a borderline question whether to indict or not, the penchant is to pass the decision on to the court."

Although on the surface it sounds reasonable to let the courts rule in high-profile cases, Pachter said that the publicity, and the resultant distress it causes the defendant, should be taken into account.

"Do you think that Ya'acov Ne'eman today is the same Ya'acov Ne'eman from before the indictment?" he asked. "The bigger the public figure, the harder he falls. Therefore there has to be much more caution than usual. I hope this standard also filters down to everyone facing an indictment."

But David Kretzmer, a professor of constitutional law at Hebrew University, disputed the notion that the state attorney is too quick to

indict public officials. He said that it is not reasonable to expect that every indictment will result in a conviction. Nor, he said, is an acquittal a sign that somehow the state attorney failed.



Ya'acov Ne'eman

(Israel Hareiz)

"The fact that someone was acquitted says nothing about the decision to indict him. When the decision is made to indict someone, it is taken

on the basis of evidence at hand, not knowing the line of defense, or how the defendant will try to refute the charges," Kretzmer said.

The state attorney, Kretzmer said, is in the impossible situation of being damned if she does hand down indictments, and damned if she doesn't.

"Can you imagine what would have been said if Ne'eman was not indicted?" Kretzmer said. "People would have screamed that the state attorney is going easy on him because he was justice minister."

The entire debate over the state attorney's decisions to indict is relatively new, Kretzmer said, and is a result of the Supreme Court's judicial activism. Kretzmer said that up until about 10 years ago the Supreme Court was very hesitant about involving itself in the state attorney's decisions on indictments.

This situation ended in the 1980s when the Supreme Court blasted then attorney-general Yosef Harish for not indicting the central figures in the bank-share scandal. Other high-profile instances where the court has expressed displeasure with a decision not to indict were the cases involving former police inspector-general Rafi Peled and NRP MK Avner Shaki.

The decision not to indict Shaki, said Hebrew University political science professor Avraham Diskin, weakens the argument that the state attorney only indicts politicians from the Right. But this argument is still heard frequently, and posters asking what happened to the cases against Labor and Meretz politicians Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, Yisrael Kessar, and Dedi Zucker, have for days been plastered all over Jerusalem.

ANALYSIS

Torn between loyalties

By SARAH HONIG

Had the High Court of Justice ruled on all the cases accruing from the Bar-On Affair on Wednesday, and had it unequivocally removed any legal threats to Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi's remaining in office, it would, paradoxically, have been a lot easier to take Hanegbi's portfolio and give it back to his predecessor, Ya'acov Ne'eman.

But as long as the court keeps Hanegbi dangling, he is politically immune.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is now stuck between a rock and a hard place. He is committed to both Hanegbi and Ne'eman. If he does not let one down, he will be seen as betraying the other. His only safe move — for now — is to do nothing.

That may be precisely what he is going to do.

There have been rumors that a cabinet reshuffle is in the offing. Ne'eman might be reinstated as part of such a reshuffle. But even that cannot be done unless the High Court rejects the petitions demanding Hanegbi's ouster. Removing Hanegbi, even for the most legitimate reasons, while his case is still pending, would be an expression of no-confidence in him. Sources close to Netanyahu say there is no chance this will happen.

The Bar-On Affair has created a bond of a common ordeal between Netanyahu and Hanegbi despite the fact that Hanegbi was obviously not his first choice to be justice



Michael Ben-Yair

minister. Netanyahu had picked Ne'eman, who is not an MK, as part of his plan to appoint men of excellence to key posts.

Netanyahu still holds Ne'eman in very high regard. His exoneration was greeted with genuine delight in the government, where it was charged that the former

attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair, had already prevented Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan — who was later cleared of charges that at the time were being investigated — from becoming internal security minister.

In Eitan's case the damage done is regarded as irreversible, despite Eitan's considerable political clout. Ne'eman, who comes from outside the political system, carries no such clout.

This is not to say that he does not enjoy support inside the cabinet. Many of those who clamored for Hanegbi's removal in the wake of the Bar-On Affair yesterday seized eagerly on Ne'eman's acquittal. Ne'eman is also popular in the NRP, Shas and in many Likud quarters.

Whether all this could be translated into solid pressure on Ne'eman's behalf is an entirely different question. The new realities created while Ne'eman was clearing his name have made it far from certain that Netanyahu can reinstate him, at least not immediately.

There are various scenarios for resolving the matter, including appointing Ne'eman as a minister without portfolio until a more far-ranging reshuffle is possible.

But the bottom line is that Netanyahu is torn between two loyalties, and will be damned if he does and damned if he doesn't.

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Imperfect over unacceptable

Yesterday's acquittal of former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman of all the accusations against him marks the end of a nightmare for Ne'eman, but not of the government's troubles in the arena of judicial appointments.

Ne'eman's innocence does not make him an ideal justice minister, but imperfect is an improvement over unacceptable. The court's decision was unusual in its complete rejection of the prosecution's case, prompting some commentators to suggest that the court put into question the entire basis of the indictment. Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein pointed out that in recent years there have been 15 indictments of mayors, Knesset members, and ministers - including Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan - who have been acquitted.

It would, of course, not be a healthy state of affairs if prosecutors only recommended indictments when they were positive that the courts would convict. But the opposite situation, in which prosecutors are too quick to indict public officials, is perhaps even more disturbing. One reason is the prospect of ruining the lives and careers of innocent people. No justice system is perfect, so each must constantly choose which risk to minimize: accusing the innocent or letting the guilty go free.

Democracies rightly lean towards protecting the innocent. The streets of dictatorships might be among the safest in the world, but most people prefer freedom. The other reason is that the public trust of the justice system is one of the great treasures of a democracy. If indictments only rarely lead to convictions, then the seriousness of indictments is diminished in the public eye. If being under indictment is to be held incompatible with holding high public office, as it should be, then the public must believe that indictments are not being made frivolously.

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein said in reacting to the verdict that it is very easy to harm the public's confidence in prosecutors and the courts, and much harder to rebuild that confidence. He is right that the public must not rush to impugn the motives of the prosecutors, but the justice system itself also bears responsibility to continually earn the public's confidence.

One necessary step to increase this confidence is in the hands of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu: He should take this opportunity to remove Tzahi Hanegbi from the Justice Ministry. Hanegbi entered the ministry with the understanding that it was a temporary appoint-

ment during the trial of Ne'eman. Now that Ne'eman has been acquitted, the job should be his if he still wants it.

Always an unlikely choice for the post, given his penchant for political guerrilla tactics, Hanegbi's handling of the Bar-On Affair confirmed that he is unfit for the job. The state attorney's report found that Hanegbi, while not involved in any criminal conspiracy, did not investigate after being warned of the real possibility of such a conspiracy. Then he misled the cabinet when arguing for the nominee by implying that Supreme Court President Aharon Barak did not oppose the appointment.

Such behavior need not be considered criminal for it to be deemed unacceptable for the minister of justice, of all people. Hanegbi's unwillingness, so far, to voluntarily offer to return his seat to Ne'eman is itself one more reason he should be booted out of it.

Unfortunately, even if Ne'eman returns to his former post, the occupant of that seat remains problematic. His statement implying that the Justice Ministry bureaucracy blocks the appointment of religious people is ironically the sort of generalized, unsubstantiated accusation of which he himself has been a victim.

All bureaucracies have their cultures and prejudices, but there is no excuse for ministers to blithely bandy about accusations against the very people who look to him for leadership. In any case, by seeming to judge his staff based upon whether they wear a kippa or not, Ne'eman exhibited precisely the sort of prejudice of which he accused others. If Ne'eman is to return to his post, he is within his rights to insist on professionalism and lack of bias. To do this, however, he must not himself set an opposite example.

The Ne'eman acquittal is also an opportunity for Netanyahu to partially correct the damage from the Bar-On Affair in two ways. First, it provides a reasonable way to remove Hanegbi from the Justice Ministry, without having to admit that the affair has tainted his ability to continue in that job. Second, it is a chance for Netanyahu to show that he has learned that he cannot ignore the desire of most of his cabinet and the public that the post of justice minister be filled by someone fully qualified to hold it. If Hanegbi is kept on despite the most convenient possible opportunity to remove him, it will be a sign that Netanyahu cannot learn from his mistakes, and that there will likely be more to come.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

QUOTATIONS

Sir, - In a recent op-ed article ("Hail the elite," May 1), Larry Derfner basically calls on an "elite group of people to save Israel from the majority that elected the present government." There is a saying that goes something like this: Democracy is too precious a thing to entrust to the will of the people.

After checking four books of quotations (Oxford, Bartlett, Webster, Stevenson) and two encyclopedias, I believe that the source for Derfner's inspirational quote is none other than Larry Derfner himself, who seems to have confused "democracy" with "war," as in "War is much too serious a thing to be left to military men."

Derfner calls for the "elite" to take over from the majority of "fessers" who brought Netanyahu to power. Here, we learn that Derfner has gone beyond the feudal concept of an aristocracy measured by birth to an aristocracy measured by girth. Those who stuff their faces at the beach, as Derfner says, need not apply to the high priesthood he would impose against the will of the people.

Yes, police investigator Sando

Mazor probably agrees with Derfner that he (Mazor) is part of the elite, and when he opened the three-month investigation, he told several reporters: "We'll show them that we're more than just a bunch of shepherds." Still, Mazor looks more like the rotund Sancho Panza than Clint Eastwood to me, and he hardly fits the image of Derfner's lean, mean fighting machine.

After insulting and berating the majority of voters, Derfner then begins to threaten Prime Minister Netanyahu himself lest Netanyahu "try to replace the elites." What would happen? Derfner tells us "the intelligentsia would revolt." I can just hear Netanyahu's knees shaking.

Still, Derfner is worried that Netanyahu's majority - despite the scandals - might actually be getting bigger. "Worst of all, the people seem to be attracting new individuals to their ranks all the time." Woe unto us all.

Well, he rants and raves some more against "the people" - the majority - in much the way that television's Archie Bunker used to rant and rave against minorities in America and against "meatheads"

in general. Archie, however, was at least entertaining when he mangled words and invented quotations. And as Archie's wife Edith would agree, Archie was sometimes even cute. Derfner, however, has a real Bunker mentality: "If 'the people' decide, we may be in trouble."

I think someone once said something to the effect that though democracy is a pretty stupid system, it's still the best one we have.

Here are my selections of quotations to be taken as antidotes for malevolent Derfnerism that would place our fate in the hands of a self-appointed pseudo-elite: "Democracy substitutes election by the incompetent man for appointment by the corrupt few." (George Bernard Shaw)

"I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves." (Thomas Jefferson)

"Democracy means government by the uneducated, while aristocracy means government by the badly educated." (G.K. Chesterton)

MICHAEL WIDLANSKI

Jerusalem.

DEIR YASSIN

Sir, - Jay Bushinsky's op-ed article of May 7 on the Deir Yassin Memorial calls for the "truth, but distorts it at the same time. For example, Bushinsky claims Deir Yassin was laid waste and that it physically no longer exists. That is not true; the center of the village is today the mental hospital at Kfar Shaul, and thanks to this, most of the buildings are still in very good shape. A comparison of any detailed pre-1948 map and a map of Jerusalem today will bear this out.

Bushinsky disputes the claim that about 25 captured male villagers were paraded through the streets of Jerusalem and then taken back to a quarry at Deir Yassin and shot to death. But eyewitnesses have testified to the same. And the claim is corroborated by the account of the Israeli military historian Colonel Meir Pa'il, who witnessed the massacre and pho-

tographed it. His eyewitness account was made public years ago, although his photographs are still locked up in the Ministry of Defense.

It is also a distortion to malign the Jewish and non-Jewish members of Deir Yassin Remembered claiming they compare Deir Yassin to the Holocaust. If every Palestinian were executed tomorrow, it would still not compare to the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust. Nevertheless, it is a great irony that Deir Yassin lies only 1,400 meters from Yad Vashem and is clearly visible from it. In a land where one is taught "Never Forget," it is breathtaking to see people like Bushinsky try to hide or gloss over one of the most tragic events in 20th-century Palestinian history.

On a positive note, Bushinsky says, "A Deir Yassin memorial? We cannot object..." I should hope

not. For to do so would undermine the spirit of the many memorials to Jews who have fallen in wars or been slain in massacres throughout their history. A memorial to Palestinians massacred at Deir Yassin will be a part of both Palestinian and Israeli history and both sides will visit it.

DANIEL A. MCGOWAN

Deir Yassin Remembered
New York.

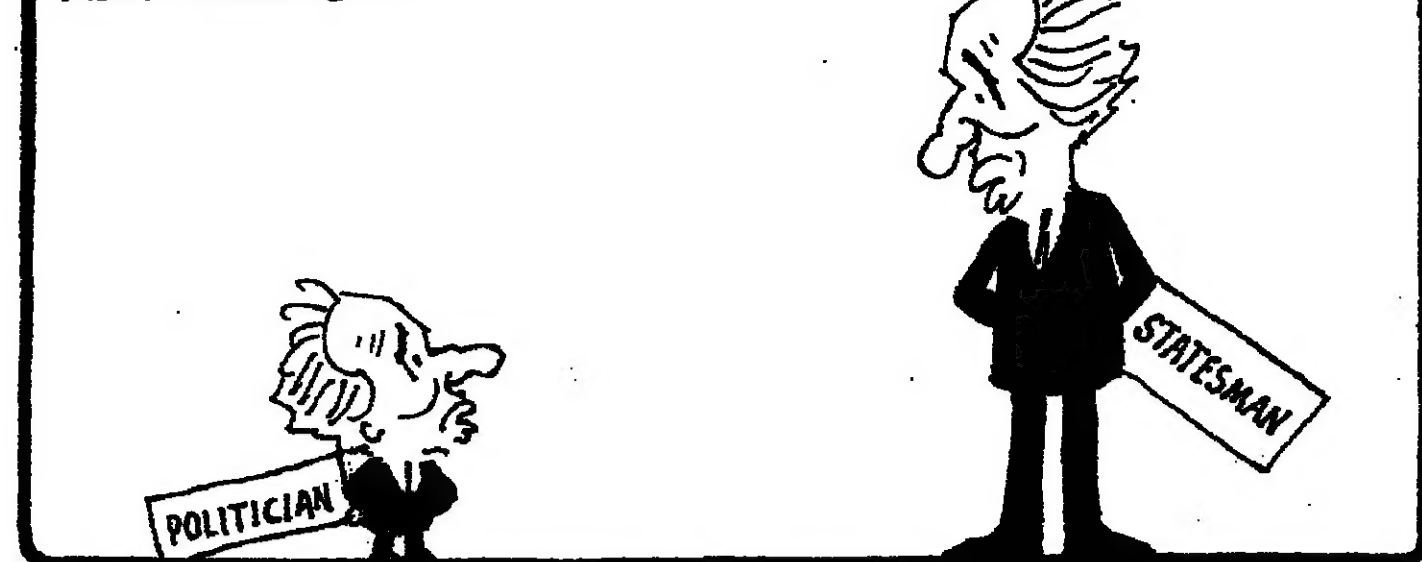
WRONG FACE

Sir, - I refer to your photograph of May 6 captioned: "Ronald Harwood gives a fine performance as Wilhelm Furtwängler in *Taking Sides*. The garb may be Furtwängler's, the face is Oded Teomi's."

M. IVRY

Jerusalem.

MIKE ROBINSON © 97



Why this fierce self-mutilation?

There is something that I do not understand, something that has, indeed, perplexed me for a long time.

One of the important results of the establishment of the State of Israel was the intense spread, over the last two generations, of the academic study of Judaism throughout the world.

Hundreds of universities, especially in North America and Europe, now teach Hebrew and Jewish studies, and the subject is universally recognized as an integral component of intellectual life.

The history of the Jewish people, Jewish philosophy and mysticism, Hebrew language and literature are perceived as complex disciplines arousing interest among Jews and non-Jews. Like every other national and religious culture, Judaism is understood as including various and conflicting trends and emphases, together forming a dynamic, vibrant, and developing contribution to human culture.

Western culture today is comprised of numerous such cultural complexes, each of which retains its particular characteristics. From Ireland to Mexico, from Sicily to Alabama, all present their essential uniqueness, at the same time forming the building blocks of the global cultural and intellectual civilization.

In the first decades after its establishment, the attitude of Israel's secular majority conformed to this universal approach. Judaism was understood as being not only a religious tradition but a national culture too, one which could be integrated with Western civilization. The fusion of the two was regarded as the basis of the emerging culture of the State of

JOSEPH DAN

Israel.

This situation has changed dramatically over the last two decades. Today, the only place in the world where the variety and complexity, the dynamism and relevance of the Jewish heritage is denied is among the secular community in Israel.

When I started my studies 45 years ago, most of my teachers

wholeheartedly accept the most important component of the haredi worldview - the one in which they are absolutely wrong - the claim that only the haredim are the sole representatives of Judaism as a whole, past, present, and future, and that only they express "true Judaism."

We vehemently reject haredi claims in every aspect of life,

Secular Israelis have torn up their ticket to contemporary global culture

and fellow students, like me, led a secular life. None of us found any inherent contradiction between our dedication to Jewish studies and our adherence to Western values, norms, and methodologies.

In recent years, however, a powerful process of radicalization brought about the emergence of a schism between the haredim and the intensely secular majority. This, in turn, caused a swift weakening of the middle.

Judaism came to be regarded more and more as antagonistic to contemporary culture, as if only its rejection could enable one to accept Western norms.

The secular intellectual community developed a deep enmity toward anything it conceived as representing haredi Judaism. This came to include even the Bible, Jewish history, and the history of the Land of Israel, and classical Hebrew literature.

The paradox is that while secular Israelis fiercely reject haredi cultural, social, and religious norms, we

thought, and politics; but we see them as the only legitimate Jews.

It is hardly surprising that the haredim view themselves as the "true Judaism"; yet incomprehensible that secular Jews in Israel accept that claim, including Isaiah and Bialik, Maimonides and Agnon, the Zohar and Mendelssohn in the haredi complex, and hating it all.

THROUGHOUT the history of the state, secular Israelis never gave legitimacy to any attempt to create a moderate concept of Judaism which could be integrated with contemporary culture.

We seem to insist that only the haredim are legitimate Jews, thus contributing to the weakening and erosion of every meaningful middle road uniting Judaism with Zionism and with openness to Western culture.

Why do we do it? This attitude has no parallel either in Diaspora Judaism, which is open to a pluralistic concept of Judaism, nor in the non-Jewish intellectual world,

which recognizes the variety and complexity of Judaism as it does of every other culture.

As a result of this paradox, fewer and fewer secular Israeli students and scholars are dedicating themselves to Jewish studies, while abroad the numbers are increasing, with Jewish studies appealing to a diverse group of people, both Jews and non-Jews. More and more scholarly books are published abroad, while their number in Israel is decreasing.

Contemporary civilization does not welcome people who hate themselves and cut themselves off from their authentic cultural heritage. He who approaches Western culture empty-handed will receive only the external aspects of this culture.

We oppose the haredim in every possible way, yet we are surrendering our identity to them, as well as our ticket to contemporary global culture.

Why? I have no answer. If anyone has, I shall recommend wholeheartedly that he be nominated for a future Israel Prize.

Meanwhile, I can only express the hope that we shall overcome this self-imposed self-mutilation, and recognize that the diversity of Jewish culture can both sustain Israeli spiritual life and serve as a bridge to our integration in the best achievements of Western culture.

At this point, however, things seem to be going in quite the opposite direction.

The writer, Gershon Scholen, professor of Kabbalah at the Hebrew University, received this year's Israel Prize for his studies in the history of Jewish mysticism, thought, ethics, and literature.

Silencers & those who shout 'Beware!'

SHMUEL SCHNITZER

My somewhat gloomy forecast of three years ago in an article on the Ethiopian community entitled "Importing Death" has, to a great extent, been borne out.

It has been confirmed in two official publications: the report of the Navon Commission, which examined the reasons behind the decision not to accept blood donations from Ethiopians; and Chapter 47 of this year's State Comptroller's Report, which deals with AIDS and is largely based on the Navon report.

From both these publications, a dismal picture of establishment recklessness emerges. Despite my condemnation by the Press Council, by the president, and in a High Court decision, I was correct in my pessimistic assessment that the aliyah of non-Jews and AIDS carriers would be detrimental to the Ethiopian community; and my fears were realized.

Because of what I wrote, I was disqualified as a winner of the Israel Prize and labeled a racist. I can live with the decision that I would not get the prize, also with the berthing of my good name. The question is whether the Ethiopian community can live with its betrayal by the Israeli establishment.

Naively, that community trusted us - and we betrayed it. We brought upon it the terror of AIDS, a disease for which there is no cure. It is our fault that "the risk of becoming infected with the disease among this community is 500 times greater among males and 400 times greater among females than in the general population" (Navon report, Page 9).

The course of events was as follows: When Ethiopian Jews arrived in Israel in 1984 within the framework of "Operation Moses," the Ministry of Health's epidemiology department discovered there were quite a few cases of malaria among

them (it should be noted that later tests showed there were no AIDS carriers). Viral hepatitis was also common (Navon report, Page 15).

"Before the arrival of the Operation Solomon immigrants, a grim picture of the rampancy of the AIDS virus among the community residing in Addis Ababa was revealed to the Health Ministry. The decision was taken not to make this information public, but to examine all the immigrants upon their arrival in Israel.

If my thinking cost me the Israel Prize, at least my conscience is clear

"In a meeting of the steering committee on AIDS held on June 27, 1991, Dr. Moshe Mashiah reported that 2 percent of the immigrants tested positive for AIDS antibodies." All branches of the press were requested not to publish this data" (Navon report, Page 17). "One worrisome statistic is that the rate of carriers among the Ethiopian immigrants (Falash Mura) continuing to come to Israel every month is 3-8 percent" (Navon report, Page 9).

The policy of concealment on the part of absorption and health bodies had tragic consequences.

Before July 1990, no AIDS carriers were found among those examined. Since then, there has been a rapid increase (Navon report, Page 9), owing to a mistaken policy of indiscriminate immigration. Those who were hurt by this policy were the Ethiopian immigrants themselves.

The low level of awareness among these immigrants of the danger of the disease about which the state comptroller has warned (Pages 206,

207) and the lack of a serious information campaign created the current grave situation. The Navon report warned about a conspiracy of silence which hindered the spread of AIDS information. It also warned of a tendency to denounce anyone breaking that silence as a "racist."

"We believe that this tendency of concealment was mistaken from the outset... it should have been clear to the policy makers that such a secret cannot be kept from the public for an extended period....

"It is possible that this tendency also harmed the community itself, since the lack of all the facts may have hurt the quality and effectiveness of the information campaign among the community, and may even possibly not have prevented incidents of infection with the disease among members of the community, who were unaware of the gravity of the situation" (Navon report, Page 21).

I was a little surprised when a legal expert from the Press Council said in a well-reasoned verdict that "freedom of the press must not take precedence over damage to the sensitivities of an ethnic group."

This directly contradicts the Navon report (Page 2): "The committee believes that extensive information and prevention activities are not a luxury, but a matter of life and death."

I INNOCENTLY believed that the purpose of the Press Council was to enhance freedom of speech and protect the public's right to

know. Its cooperation with the conspiracy of silence shocked me. I decided to ignore its ruling.

Even the president joined those who condemned me. Without examining the facts (he would have had no difficulty in obtaining a copy of the Navon report), he requested that I apologize. With all due respect, I could not. In my opinion, the duty to apologize falls on the silencers.

But most serious of all was one paragraph of the High Court ruling which annulled the minister of education's decision to award me the Israel Prize.

The justices said that the prize committee must reconvene to reconsider its decision. But this time it had to take into account the condemnation by the Press Council and pay attention to "Mr. Schnitzer's current stance relative to what is written in the article."

In other words, the committee was not to assess my work, nor my actions, but my thinking. And if there were grounds for believing that my stubborn brain still formulated forbidden thoughts, the prize must be denied me.

This seems to me the first time that the legal system has examined what a person thinks, as opposed to what he does.

The prize committee, acting as thought police, found that I still harbor forbidden thoughts.

I reserve the right to think as I choose. If my thinking cost me the Israel Prize, at least my conscience is clear.

I am not the one responsible for the disease that struck hundreds of members of the Ethiopian community. It is those who kept silent and silenced others who should be held accountable, not those who shouted warnings.

The writer is a senior journalist at Ma'ariv.

POSTSCRIPTS

WE'RE GETTING a bad rap here at the *Post*, and it's time we set the record straight.

Shortly after we ran an ad that included a product called "Ketchup," we got a letter from a reader pointing out our humorous error. Then the London *Jewish Chronicle* published an article needling us for Freudian slip. It was not a mistake. Some marketing genius came up with that name for a squeezable ketchup bottle. "Ketchup" it is.

SOMETIMES, A little confusion can be a good thing.

Theresa Terry of Jerusalem relates a story of a woman who forgot which cable channel was used for video viewing. She decided to call a friend for help.

But adding to her absent-mindedness, she inadvertently picked up the remote control instead of the telephone, and upon pressing the first two digits of her friend's number, the video screen magically appeared.

PLANS TO build a £10 million Millennium Wheel in London to mark the year 2000 have been approved.

Lambeth Borough Council in south London gave the go-ahead for the 150-meter-high project which will be the world's biggest ferris wheel.

The Millennium Wheel, sponsored by British Airways, will be built on the Thames opposite the Houses of Parliament.

A SAUDI farmer with four wives isn't about to stop marrying despite his age of 110. He's getting married again.

Mohammed al-Bayah, who lives in the farming town of Asir and has 72 children and grandchildren, is allowed a maximum of four wives, according to Islamic law. He will presumably have to divorce one of his four wives before taking another.

Let's institute civil marriage

The proposed conversion law prohibiting recognition of non-Orthodox conversions in Israel continues to haunt Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government.

Since the bill passed its first Knesset reading at the end of March, there has been a palpable – and worrisome – deterioration in Israel's relations with Jews abroad.

Unprecedented denunciations of Israeli policy on this issue by leaders of the Reform, Conservative, and Reconstructionist movements in North America are now adversely affecting support for Israel on other matters.

Their ire has only been aggravated by Netanyahu's last-minute cancellation of his appearance at the convention of Arza, the Reform Movement's Zionist organization, and by his feeble attempts to dismiss the severity of the proposed legislation by suggesting that it merely entrenches the so-called "status quo."

This controversy simply will not go away.

Israel's official attitude toward conversion touches on the very essence of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.

Israel cannot be a homeland for all Jews if it does not respect and protect the diversity of beliefs, backgrounds, and perspectives of the people who live in the country and, by extension, the heterogeneity of the Jewish heritage.

No one can deny that a basic feature of Jewish history has been the constant creation and reshaping of different streams of tradition and practice. Since the very inception of Judaism, Jews and Jewish communities have developed different ways of relating to the core of Judaism and of living Jewish lives.

Refusal to recognize the different interpretations that exist today in the very country dedicated to respecting and honoring the lives of all Jews is to reject the basic tenet of Jewish tradition.

NAOMI CHAZAN

This refusal also threatens to undermine the still-fragile democratic character of the State of Israel.

In this already-fractious society, failing to separate religion and state impinges on basic individual freedoms, and reduces the potential for tolerance and coexistence.

Thus the proposed conversion law, sadly and ironically, not only creates a chasm between Israel

It's the way to safeguard Jewish life, our democracy, bonds with world Jewry, and individual rights

and the largely non-Orthodox world Jewish community; it also contradicts the basic premise of the Zionist enterprise.

TIME will not put an end to the current tensions. The issue demands a real solution.

To date, three main proposals have been suggested.

First, the prime minister has offered to freeze the process of legislation, if the Reform and Conservative movements withdraw their petition to the High Court for recognition of their conversions.

Such a solution would maintain the current ambiguity, prevent the law from passing – and avoid confronting the real questions at hand.

Second, government officials have suggested that the "nationality" category be deleted from identity cards (although not from the population register), thus circumventing possible discrimination against those not recognized as "Jewish" by Israeli law.

While this solution might reduce discrimination between Arabs and

Jews, in this context it will effectively create two categories of Jews in Israel, and license real discrimination on this basis.

A third proposal, while perhaps more forthright, is essentially no more helpful: notation of conversion as Reform, Conservative, or Orthodox.

While legitimating non-Orthodox conversions, this alternative would create a group of Israelis whose basic rights to marry, divorce, and be buried would continuously be assailed, as these matters remain within the sole jurisdiction of the Orthodox rabbinate.

The time has come to deal head-on with the issue of the relationship between Judaism and Israel.

The present conundrum cannot be resolved unless the Orthodox monopoly on issues of personal status is altered.

Providing for civil marriage and divorce, alongside Orthodox channels, is a first step toward separating religion from state and personal affairs. It is also a step toward the reevaluation of diversity and pluralism that democracy entails.

Such an approach also meets the needs of Orthodox groups, which would be able, by virtue of the notation of conversions, to uphold their convictions and practices.

Clearly, then, the conversion law is not the way to establish a relationship of respect either between Israeli society and Jewish tradition or between Israeli and Diaspora Jews.

Only by addressing conversion along with other issues of personal status can a complete, legitimate response to this issue be reached.

To safeguard Jewish life, democracy in Israel, bonds with world Jewry, and the rights of individual Jews, the time has come to authorize civil marriage and divorce in this country.

The writer, a Meretz MK, is a deputy speaker of the Knesset.



Two wives are better than one

A while ago I joined a group of Na'amat activists who had gathered at a moshav in the Netanya area. They were demonstrating on behalf of a woman whose husband of 30 years – currently the moshav rabbi, no less – had married a second wife without giving her a *get*, or religious divorce.

She was thus left an *aguna*, prohibited from remarrying in Jewish law.

The woman, a mother of four, took a vocal part in the demonstration, demanding that since her husband was a bigamist he should be relieved of his position of trust and authority.

A New York Jewish lawyer and businessman was detained in Israel last Succot because he refused to give his wife a *get*.

She remains in limbo in New York, without a *get*, unable to remarry; her well-to-do husband has married again. He brought his new wife to Jerusalem to celebrate Simhat Torah.

In the country's Arab communities, the phenomenon is growing of Moslem men taking as second wives women in their mid-thirties whose families are eager to see their daughters or sisters supported by a man, even if he already has another wife. (Islamic law says a man may take four wives.)

Bigamy acceptable in this country? Surely not. Israel is a modern, Western-style democracy, with legislation providing criminal sanctions of imprisonment for up to five years for those who marry more than one spouse.

However, law is all very well, but it needs to be set in motion.

The tragic fact is that both Moslem and Jewish religious tradition often combine with family and community pressure. The result is that bigamy complaints are rarely reported to the police.

SHARON SHENHAV

And when they are, the system works very slowly. Sanctions are rarely applied.

Jewish men have a unique status. They are able to dodge the existing bigamy law because it includes a paragraph which provides exemption from prosecution if the rabbinical court issues a permit for the man to take a second wife.

Legally sanctioned bigamy is alive and well in Israel today

This permit, known as a *heter nissuin*, provides Jewish men with a handy solution to that irritating problem of giving their wives a *get*.

Once a husband has such a permit, he can go ahead, take a second wife, and profit from the wedding gifts – as well as from the property accrued during his first marriage.

Since Israeli law on the division of marital property requires ending the marriage by either divorce or death, an opportunistic Jewish husband can retain the property owned jointly with his first wife by the simple expedient of refusing to give her a *get*.

He thus prevents her from remarrying, denies her her rightful share of their joint possessions, and can build a comfortable life with his second wife.

This being the case, no wonder so many Jewish men have discovered the attraction of bigamy. It's just so profitable!

But, one might think, surely permits to take a second wife aren't handed out so freely. Well, that depends on who's handing them out.

In a case my colleagues at Na'amat handled a few years

ago, a Jewish man from Beersheba decided to try and obtain such a permit because his wife had refused his offer of a *get* in exchange for ceding her rights to half of their jointly-owned apartment.

In other words, she refused to be blackmailed.

So the husband approached the rabbinical court and asked for

forth one of the main problems of inequality and injustice between the sexes in Jewish law as it is applied today.

Jewish men cannot be *agunot*. If their wives refuse to accept a *get*, they can apply for a permit to marry again.

Jewish women, however, have never had the option of taking a second husband, even in cases where their marriages have been nonexistent.

Women whose husbands have disappeared, are sterile, or have been declared mentally incompetent need a *get* to remarry. If their husbands withhold it, for whatever reason, they become *agunot*, often for decades.

The threat of a *heter* can be an important factor in negotiating property division during a divorce. If the wife rejects her husband's terms, unfair as they may be, the shadow of the permit hangs over her.

He doesn't need a *get*. She does. If she proves "difficult," he'll simply get permission to take a second wife.

A Jewish husband whose wife refuses to accept a *get* finds a sympathetic ear in the rabbinical courts. Under Jewish law and under current Israeli law, marrying a second wife with a rabbinical court permit is not a crime. This means that legally-sanctioned bigamy is alive and well in the Jewish world today – for men only.

With today's Jewish women asserting themselves and gaining greater access to Jewish learning, it is high time they demanded equality with men in the sensitive and painful area of marriage and divorce.

The writer, former director of legal services for Na'amat in Jerusalem, is current director of the organization's Overseas Department.

This precious land, this treasure of ours

While the nation's attention was riveted on the Bar-On Affair, in which the prime minister and a cabal around him tried to gain control of key parts of the country's legal establishment, a similar drama was unfolding around the Israel Lands Administration.

The Jewish National Fund representatives on the ILA's board have succeeded – for the time being – in foiling Ariel Sharon's determination to push through adoption of the Rotten Committee's recommendations for speeding up privatization of state-owned land, primarily in high-demand urban areas.

A few days earlier, the national infrastructure minister withdrew his nomination of Yossi Antverg as ILA director.

Following the fallout over Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's railroading the appointment of Rami Bar-On as attorney-general through a supine cabinet, it became clear to Sharon that the cabinet would not approve Antverg's appointment.

Antverg had been indicted in connection with the issuance of fake receipts for campaign donations to the Likud. The charges were subsequently dropped in exchange for payment of a fine.

Sharon's first choice for the job, Avi Drechsler, was also dropped because of his involvement in the Nabi Samwil land scandal, one of the counts in the indictment against Shas leader Aryeh Deri.

Israel is the only non-communist country in which ownership of over 90 percent of all land is vested in the nation, rather than being owned privately. This land is administered by the ILA, which leases it out long-term for residential, agricultural, commercial, and industrial uses.

The reason for this has nothing to do with socialist ideology. It began with the inception of the World Zionist Organization at the turn of the century, when the Jewish National Fund was established to raise money from Jews throughout the world to "redeem" as much of the ancestral homeland as possible.

It was an act of genius on the part of a landless people. Their movement for national liberation, Zionism, was supported by poor Jews who deposited their pennies weekly in the blue-and-white JNF pushkes, but shunned by nearly all the rich Jews.

Of the 92 percent of Israel owned by the nation, the Jewish National Fund accounts for 17 percent, but much of it is in high-priced, high-demand urban areas.

The rest of the land accrued from land left behind by the British and the Arab

YOSEF GOELL

refugees who fled the country in 1948.

BUT all that is ancient history. Why not privatize land in a changing Israel whose ruling elites subscribe to the thesis that all life should be driven by market forces?

Primarily because Israel is fast on its way to becoming one of the

Putting a non-renewable commodity into private hands? It's mad, not to say immoral

most crowded countries in the developed world. We are not yet Hong Kong or Singapore, but we are well on our way to leaving Holland behind.

In such a country, land is a non-renewable, fixed quantity, an economic good very much like water and fresh air.

Putting such commodities into private hands is madness. What is needed is just the opposite: ensuring that decisions on land use are kept in public hands.

Land should be leased to private interests on condition that the use they intend making of it conforms to the needs of the general public. For this purpose, local zoning and planning boards are simply not enough.

We can already see the effects of privatization in the increasing

numbers of high-rise buildings along the beaches adjoining marinas.

Those marinas – ostensibly built to attract wealthy, yacht-owning tourists – were really intended to permit the building of expensive homes for rich Israelis, and to deprive the vast majority of the public access to beaches.

One of the main arguments in favor of the privatization of land is that the ILA is hopelessly mired in bureaucracy. Actually, the correct term is corruption.

The last exemplary ILA head was the late Meir Zorea, a former deputy chief of staff. That was before the advent of Likud governments in 1977. Since then the tendency has been to appoint party hacks to a position that is as sensitive as that of the attorney-general or state comptroller. This must change.

What the Likud government really wants to do is compensate its political donors who are building contractors and real estate brokers with cheap land.

The previous Labor government was no less reprehensible in permitting many – if far from all – kibbutzim to cash in on the rezoning of their leased lands from agricultural to commercial and residential use.

Not everything that we have inherited from an earlier Israel or Zionist movement is worth preserving.

But the principle that the land of this tiny and overcrowded country should serve the needs of all its people must remain intact, protected against greedy private interests.

The writer comments on current affairs.

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Mobutu, rebels fail to reach agreement

News agencies

KINSHASA - Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko flew back to his capital yesterday after an abortive bid to hold a second round of talks with rebel leader Laurent Kabila.

Airport sources said he flew in from Pointe Noire in neighbouring Congo where he spent the night after Kabila, reportedly raising new security concerns, declined to join the South African sponsored talks.

Mobutu might have resigned in favour of an all-party transitional authority yesterday if the peace talks had gone ahead, South African state radio said.

The radio said it had obtained a copy of President Nelson Mandela's two-page proposal for an agreement which said Mobutu would step down within 24 hours of signing it.

It said the document proposed a 10-point agreement calling for Zaire to be run by a transitional authority comprising representatives of all parties in proportions agreed to by Mobutu and Kabila until elections are held.

"It states that Mobutu will vacate his post within 24 hours of signing

the document. He will play no future role in government structures, but his safety and that of his family will be guaranteed. He will also be given the courtesy and dignity usually afforded to a former head of state," the radio said.

Government and diplomatic sources said the division of power within the transitional authority between followers of Mobutu and of Kabila was a current sticking point.

An initial proposal for a 60-40 split in Kabila's favour had been scrapped, partly as a result of French government objections, they said.

"If he (Kabila) had gone to the ship, a process of transition would have started this morning. This process (the Mandela document) would be a lot shorter than the military option," a government source said.

Mandela, unbowed by his failure, yesterday scheduled talks with Kabila. He sent a plane to the Angolan enclave of Cabinda to bring Kabila to Cape Town for an afternoon meeting.

President Thabo Mbeki would remain in Pointe Noire to maintain

contact with Mobutu's government delegation, said South African government spokesman Ricky Naidoo.

"In our view the talks are not derailed. Kabila has not said that he will not talk, he has merely raised concerns about his security."

"We think there is still a very large opening for them both to walk through to achieve peace in Zaire."

Asked whether Mandela, who refused to take the peace ship out to sea, was irritated by Kabila's behaviour, a spokesman said: "The president was very calm. The humanitarian tragedy unfolding in Zaire is unprecedented. There is no amount of patience he cannot find. He is compelled to continue."

A member of the Organisation of African Unity delegation in Pointe Noire told reporters the OAU was very pessimistic about prospects for a negotiated peace following the cancellation of the second face-to-face meeting between Mobutu and Kabila.

Mobutu agreed to talks on the same ship on May 4 to hand power to an elected president, but no arrangements were agreed.



Space shuttle Atlantis astronauts wave as they depart for the launching pad before yesterday's liftoff. Clockwise from left: Pilot Eileen Collins, Elena Kondakova of Russia, Jean-Francois Clervoy of France, Edward Lu, Carlos Noriega, Michael Foale and Commander Charles Precourt.

Eddie Murphy sues tabloids

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Eddie Murphy has filed separate lawsuits against two tabloid publications, saying they published false stories prompted by his encounter with a transsexual prostitute.

The suits, filed yesterday and each seeking \$5 million in damages, contend the *National Enquirer*, *The Globe* and their reporters knew the stories were untrue.

Murphy filed a third lawsuit against an individual identified as Joane Seuli for comments attributed to him in the *New York Post*. The *Post* itself was not named as a defendant in the suit, which seeks \$1 million in damages.

Murphy has said he was just trying to be nice when he picked up Joane Seuli, 20, in West Hollywood on the morning of May 2 while undercover sheriff's deputies looked on.

Murphy, 36, was pulled over minutes after Joane Seuli got into his car. Seuli was arrested on a warrant, but authorities said Murphy had broken no law.

A spokesman for the actor, Paul Bloch, said only that the lawsuits "speak for themselves." *The Enquirer* article, *Eddie Murphy's Secret Sex Life — His Transvestite Hooker Tells All*, included accounts of alleged encounters between Murphy and two transsexuals.

Atlantis off to repair Mir

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Space shuttle Atlantis and a crew of seven soared into a clear pre-dawn sky yesterday in pursuit of Russia's orbiting Mir station, in urgent need of the oxygen generator and other repair equipment being ferried up.

"We're on our way!" shuttle commander Charles Precourt said in Russian — *poyekhali*, the same word uttered at liftoff by cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space 36 years ago.

Astronaut Michael Foale couldn't wait to get going. He will spend more than four months aboard Mir, swapping places with Dr. Jerry Linenger once Atlantis arrives at the station tonight.

Mir was halfway around the world on its 64,190th orbit of Earth when Atlantis blasted off promptly at 4:07 a.m., momentarily turning the dark sky into day. The shuttle was visible for more than seven minutes, resembling a bright then

dimming star.

Linenger and his two Russian crewmates on Mir were out of contact with ground controllers at the time and had to wait for the good news. Mir commander Vasily Tsiblev saw the illuminated, empty launch pad when the station later flew over Cape Canaveral.

This will be the sixth time Atlantis docks with Mir — and arguably the most important.

The 11-year-old station has had numerous breakdowns as well as a fire since Atlantis dropped Linenger off in January.

Although the situation has improved in the past few weeks, it's still serious because of the lack of functioning spares in Mir's life-support systems.

The oxygen generator, which was rushed into production by the Russians, will be one of the first items moved into Mir during the five days of linked flight. The 115-kilo cylinder is designed to produce

oxygen from waste water via electrolysis, and will replace a broken generator aboard Mir.

Also among the more than one ton of Russian gear bound for Mir: a valve for a still-unbuilt backup unit for removing carbon dioxide from the air; hoses, clamps and caps for plugging leaks in the cooling system; and carbon monoxide detectors.

Officials in both space programs liken Mir to an old car that needs constant tinkering to keep running. But the station has traveled 2.5 billion km and was meant to last only five years. Many wonder how many more years — or days — it has left.

"The Mir has been limping along for a number of years now," said James Ober, an independent consultant on Russian space technology. "Money's the key. The Mir is a cash cow for the Russian Space Agency."

NASA is paying hundreds of millions of dollars to the Russians for its astronauts to live on Mir and

gain experience for the future international space station. The shuttle-Mir program is supposed to end in June 1998, when the seventh and final astronaut returns from the station.

Foale, 40, a British-born astrophysicist, will be the fifth NASA astronaut to live on Mir. NASA managers debated for weeks before giving him the go-ahead; they wanted to make sure the station was safe. He's already been to Mir, but never inside.

He came within 12 meters of Mir during a 1995 shuttle flyby that was a rehearsal for the docking missions. Peering at him through a station window was Russian cosmonaut Elena Kondakova, who is one of his shuttle crewmates and, in fact, is the first Russian woman to fly on a US spaceship.

Also on board Atlantis are a Frenchman, the first Peruvian-born astronaut and NASA's first female shuttle pilot.

Danes rage over US seizure of child

NEW YORK — The clash of cultures that divided a Danish woman and her baby — and Danish and American public opinion — was nearly resolved after five days when authorities reunited the family at an undisclosed location.

Sorensen and her daughter were reunited at the Danish Seaman's Church in Brooklyn Heights.

"You should have seen them together," Hans Grunnet, the Danish consul general told the *Daily News*. "They were wonderful." He added that the baby appeared in "perfect" condition. "She was well taken care of," he said.

While Sorensen regained custody of her chubby-cheeked 14-month-old daughter, New York officials were insisting that police acted properly in charging her and the child's father with endangering the welfare of a child.

The couple were arrested when they left Liv outside a restaurant in the rough East Village neighborhood while they dined inside. This

became a tale of two cities: New York, where leaving your child unattended outside a restaurant is a crime, and Copenhagen, where the same act is normal procedure.

"To leave a child unattended for an hour on a city street in New York is pretty inappropriate," said child services commissioner Nicholas Scopetta.

The international incident began when Sorensen, visiting from Copenhagen for a month, and the baby's father, Exavier Wardlaw, a movie production assistant who lives in New York, met for dinner in the East Village. Sorensen, as is customary in Denmark, left the baby in a carriage outside the Dallas BBQ restaurant.

The parents were at a table two meters away, separated from the child by two tables and a plate glass window.

Employees and other diners asked about the child's safety but the parents rebuffed them. One customer called 911.

Police arrested both parents and jailed them

for three days. The child was taken away and placed in foster care. The father was additionally charged with disorderly conduct, and both parents have a May 19 court date.

The case has reverberated across two continents. New Yorkers were stunned by the idea of parents leaving their child on the sidewalk. Danes were outraged by the idea of police arresting parents sitting near their child.

The parents "had no idea that there was anything wrong with what they were doing. They were on one side of a glass partition, and on the other side was the child," said Wardlaw's lawyer, David Kirsch.

Wardlaw, an American who has lived in New York for more than 11 years, believed the child was perfectly safe, Kirsch said.

A Dane would find it strange that "you could actually be charged here with leaving your child outside a place very near where you could see what was going on," said Kim Christiansen, a spokesman for the Danish Consulate.

Yeltsin hails NATO pact

News agencies

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin yesterday praised the new pact mapping out relations between Moscow and NATO, but his defence minister said it did not resolve all problems with the Western alliance.

Yeltsin, in a telephone call to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, described the accord as "a really major step aimed at more stability in Europe and the world overall," the Kremlin said in a statement.

Sometime this summer, the Russians will open an office at NATO headquarters with an ambassador and a military staff — something unthinkable just a few years ago.

With the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and plans for NATO expansion into Eastern Europe plunging ahead, Moscow has bowed to the inevitable and cut the best deal it could.

That deal is a 16-page document called the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between NATO and the Russian Federation. It is expected to be approved by NATO member governments and Russian President Boris Yeltsin in the next few days.

President Clinton called the accord "a historic step to a peace-

ful, undivided, democratic Europe." Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, who negotiated the agreement with NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana, said it was "a great victory for reason."

The agreement creates a NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council that will give the Russians a voice, but not a vote, in NATO deliberations. The council will have its own secretariat at NATO headquarters and will be the principal forum for security consultations.

In the agreement, the alliance repeated its position that it had "no intention, no reason and no plan" to put nuclear weapons on the territories of new members, which will include some former Soviet allies from Eastern Europe. But it didn't pledge never to do so.

But Russian Defence Minister Igor Rodionov, in Hawaii on the last leg of a visit to the United States, said the agreement did not address all outstanding issues between NATO and Russia.

"As long as NATO remains a military and political alliance, this will raise a certain lack of understanding and acceptance in Russia," he said. "It will take a lot of work to establish a trusting partnership between Moscow and Brussels."

Turkish tanks continue crossing into Iraq

HABUR, Turkey — Armored personnel carriers, trucks equipped with heavy machine guns and oil tankers streamed across the border to northern Iraq yesterday as back up for Turkish soldiers pursuing Kurdish guerrillas.

It was the second day of the offensive troops, tanks and jets launched across the border against Turkish Kurds seeking autonomy. The rebels are members of the Kurdistan Workers Party, PKK.

The official Anatolia news agency said 30 PKK guerrillas were killed in clashes near the border since the start of the offensive. The dispatch said rebels were fleeing towards the Iranian border.

In Thursday's air raids, Turkish jets bombed five PKK camps in Sinat, Hakurk, Zap, Zeli and Haftanin, Anatolia said.

F-4 jets from two southeastern Turkish bases struck camps of the separatist PKK while US-made Cobra helicopters continued the assault on rebel units.

There was no word of any casualties on the Turkish side, but fighting was continuing and the toll was expected to rise.

The incursion — the biggest in

two years and involving at least 10,000 troops — was carried out under a "news blackout" with journalists barred from the region and film and mobile telephones confiscated by Iraqi Kurds supporting the attack.

"You will not get in today," a senior Turkish commander told reporters at the Habur border crossing, which was sealed to civilian traffic before the attack.

With reporters barred from the immediate area it was impossible to confirm the scope of the Turkish thrust.

Soldiers at Habur, the main commercial entry point, said the army had established a second crossing further to the east to speed up the movement of men and machines over the border.

Anatolia said troops had also begun a big assault around the mountains to the west, towards Iraq's borders with Syria.

Defense Minister Turhan Tayan said the Iraq operation — the biggest since a 35,000-man, six-week incursion in 1995 — was a "humanitarian mission" to protect Iraqi Kurds from the PKK.

Shocked and grieving on the sudden death of our dear

EMILIO BRUNS

Family in Israel:
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MALKA and RONI COHEN
TALLY and MICHAL COHEN

On the first anniversary of the passing of our dearest

JOACHIM (Peter) EILON

we shall meet at his grave at Har Hamenuhot, Jerusalem, on Wednesday, May 21, 1997 at 5:30 p.m.

The Family

"The more beautiful and fuller the memories, the harder is the parting. But the thankfulness converts into quiet serenity and a treasured gift. One remembers the wonderful past as a precious legacy." Dietrich Bornhoeffer

After a full and rewarding life, my beloved husband

EMILIO BRUNS

August 14, 1915 - May 10, 1997

prematurely and unexpectedly has left us forever.

With love, gratitude and deep sadness, I say Good-bye.
DANIELA BRUNS

The memorial service took place in Toronto on May 15, 1997. Interment will take place in the Martin Luther Church in Tritau (near Hamburg) on May 21, 1997 at 3:00 p.m.



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We extend our deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Daniela Bruns

Warding off the evil eye

Ehud Barak stole the party establishment right from underneath Shimon Peres, but instead of basking in the glow of his triumph, the retired general is wary of the price of victory, Sarah Honig writes

After the dramatic showdown with Shimon Peres at the Labor Party convention in Tel Aviv on Tuesday night, leadership front-runner Ehud Barak summoned his closest allies and instructed them to make sure he was not applauded too loudly the next day when he entered the auditorium.

The request raised no eyebrows. One of the convention participants later explained that Barak was adding much like an old, superstitious shtetl dweller afraid of the evil eye from those who begrudge his success.

Barak had managed to do the near-impossible by trouncing Peres, the man who had dominated the Labor Party machine for two decades.

Even when the party leadership was narrowly wrested from him by the late Yitzhak Rabin, Peres never slipped from the Labor helm. He won every internal party struggle against Rabin, except for the No. 1 slot. Barak stole the party establishment right from underneath Peres, but is wary of the price of victory.

Barak had suspected from the outset that Peres wanted the party presidency not because he craved prestige, but as a last-ditch effort to hang on to party leadership. Peres, after all, had already tried other schemes, such as the national unity non-starter and a push for early elections.

Thus when Barak foiled Peres's final attempt to become co-leader, he could not sit back and savor his success. He was frightened by his own triumph. Indeed, Barak's sworn foe, MK Haim Ramon, warned him that a wounded Peres is far more dangerous than Peres wearing the untried party president hat.

This is why Barak concluded that the convention's second day and the entire run-up to the June 3 leadership primary would have to be an anti-climax to Tuesday's sensation. Shrewdly, Barak calculated that now is the time to appear to evince sensitivity, which is why he ordered his lieutenants to send word down to the ranks not to applaud him too enthusiastically. He also stipulated that there are to be no cheers, chants, or anything which could be construed as glee - never mind gloating - in the aftermath of the savage beating Peres endured.

Barak can't afford to be cast

as the villain just three weeks before the primary.

This despite the fact that Peres went to a lot of trouble to make it appear that he is not nettled in the least. In an amazing display of aplomb, he sought to claim that no offense was taken. "I didn't need the president title, I didn't even seek it. It wasn't my initiative. Friends came up with the idea and worked for it and I couldn't let them down. I couldn't tell them that they toiled for nothing."

"The appointment was not

Barak stipulated that there are to be no cheers, chants or anything which could be construed as glee - never mind gloating - in the aftermath of the savage beating Peres endured.

important. All I am concerned about is that time is running out fast for the peace process. We must save it for future generations. That is all that motivates me now and I will work relentlessly to save the peace process for my grandchildren and for all children. For that I need no title, no license, no permission from anyone. I am a free man."

IT WAS that declaration of independence that all but threw the Barak camp into a tizzy. Nothing in the Labor Party these days is what it appears.

Rather than having a soothing effect, Peres's words only heightened Barak's ever-present wariness. While Barak may have expressed his confidence that Peres will not turn against him and assured Peres that his political career will not be over by June 3, given the nature of

relations in the party now, no side trusts the other's sincerity. As the first sitting of the Labor convention wound down, whispers abounded, shadows lurked in corners, and, while everyone strove to appear to talk softly, all the protagonists were careful to carry big sticks just in case.

Barak had to cautiously prepare for any contingency and that meant meticulous care not to look too happy, or popular, and definitely not mean.

But why? It would appear from the ignominious defeat Peres suffered that he is a political gonorrhea. Moreover, just as Barak strove to lower the profile of his victory, Peres took pains to lower expectations of his bitter vengeance. He liberally granted interviews to political reporters in which he seemed to let bygones be bygones, vowing not to enter the Netanyahu government on his own, not to bolt Labor and not to set up a breakaway peace party.

On the face of it, Barak has nothing to fear, yet he is a confirmed believer in Peres's near-mythical powers as a political sorcerer.

Even among his most ardent boosters, Barak has the reputation of being a political paranoid. But, as the old adage admits, even some paranoids have real enemies, and nothing Barak saw and heard at the convention could induce him to lower his guard. For instance, Barak could not lose sight of Peres's post-convention schedule.

The first item on the itinerary of the tireless Peres, right after he left the convention (just in time, to avoid Barak's closing speech), was no less than a meeting with Yasser Arafat under Socialist International auspices.

Several sources close to Barak say he harbors no delusions of a letup in Peres's continued hyperactivity. Peres, who can no longer claim to lead a party, much less a government, obviously has no intention of withdrawing from public life and devoting himself to his memoirs.

If more indications were needed they came from Peres's loyal sidekick MK Dalit Itzik (who nevertheless supports Barak's primary bid). Itzik had warned everyone just after Peres's humiliating rout that the



Ehud Barak embraces a supporter at this week's political convention.

(Israel Sun)

alarm bells for Barak by maintaining that Ramon can still challenge Barak a year before elections, when the party will have to ratify his candidacy for prime minister.

Ramon told Barak that it won't be over on June 3 and that he will be waiting to take him on.

Significantly, Peres cheerfully chimed in, saying Ramon was "perfectly right because in a democracy a leader must always face challenges."

Around Barak, Ramon is regarded as a younger, less astute version of Peres who may take more reckless risks. Like Peres, Ramon has little to lose. He expects Barak to wreak vengeance on all his political antagonists as of June 4.

Ramon was pitted against Barak from the day Barak entered politics. They bickered bitterly during last May's elec-

Barak was acting much like an old superstitious shtetl dweller afraid of the evil eye from those who begrudge his success

tion campaign, when they co-managed it, and then spent much energy blaming each other for the debacle.

If Barak wins the primary, as appears more likely now than ever, then Ramon could turn very desperate.

The speculation in the harassed Barak camp now is that Peres may act via the Ramon proxy.

If Peres does not form a new party, perhaps Ramon will do it on his behalf.

A senior source in Barak's inner sanctum also suggested that not much trust should be placed on Peres's denials that he would consider joining the Likud government.

The source noted that such a quasi-national unity move is not even feasible now. The minute it does become a more realistic option, however, Peres will be the first to jump on the bandwagon, the source said.

But Peres need not go to such lengths to hurt Barak, stressed the source. Peres can get his own back by just bad-mouthing Barak and giving the Likud choice quotes to use against Barak in the 2000 elections.

delegates had freed him of all fetters which bind him to the party.

Even after he sought to reassure all and sundry that he "reaches no decisions in moments of anger or agitation,"

she insisted that "Peres did not say the last word. Not everything has been heard from him yet. Things will happen."

She emphasized that she knows what she is talking about. She also said this to

Barak, who was so conciliatory as to phone and congratulate her on her speech to the convention in which she bitterly attacked Barak.

If Itzik's input were not enough, Ramon rang more

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Democracy: Iranian style

Social issues, rather than cries of death to Israel and America, have dominated the campaigning for next week's Iranian elections, Steve Rodan reports

The writer is a 21-year-old Iranian student who hardly remembers Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. It is a plain appeal to the Islamic regime that rose from the ashes of the 1978 revolution, an Iranian version of the rock anthem "My Generation." "The suspicion and contempt is growing daily," the student, who remains anonymous, writes in a recent letter to the daily *Salam* newspaper. "Every minute we uncover more examples of friction and tension, particularly in the university. They are blaming the students, their ideas and even their bad intentions. Everything is placed on the back of my generation that today studies in the university. The gap that separates my generation from that of the revolution is greater than the gap between my [much older] sister and brother and my parents."

In a country of 63 million where more than half of the population was born after the overthrow of the shah and where the voting age is 15, this student's letter represents a view that even the militant regime in Teheran can't ignore. And in the last days of the current presidential campaign, which ends with elections next Friday, the candidates are focusing on the social fabric of Iran.

Many of the issues resemble those in many democracies - corruption, unemployment, inequality and inflation. There is little mention of "Death to America" or "Death to Israel," two of the most common rallying cries of the Islamic revolution.

But being an Islamic republic brings another set of issues, unique to Iran, such as whether women should be allowed to ride bicycles.

"The first thing to remember about these elections is that they're largely about domestic issues," says Patrick Clawson, a lecturer at Washington's National Defense University. "The biggest difference between the two leading candidates is about culture." David Menashri, head of the Middle East and African History department and senior research fellow at Tel Aviv University's Dayan Center for Middle East Studies, is struck by the fact that

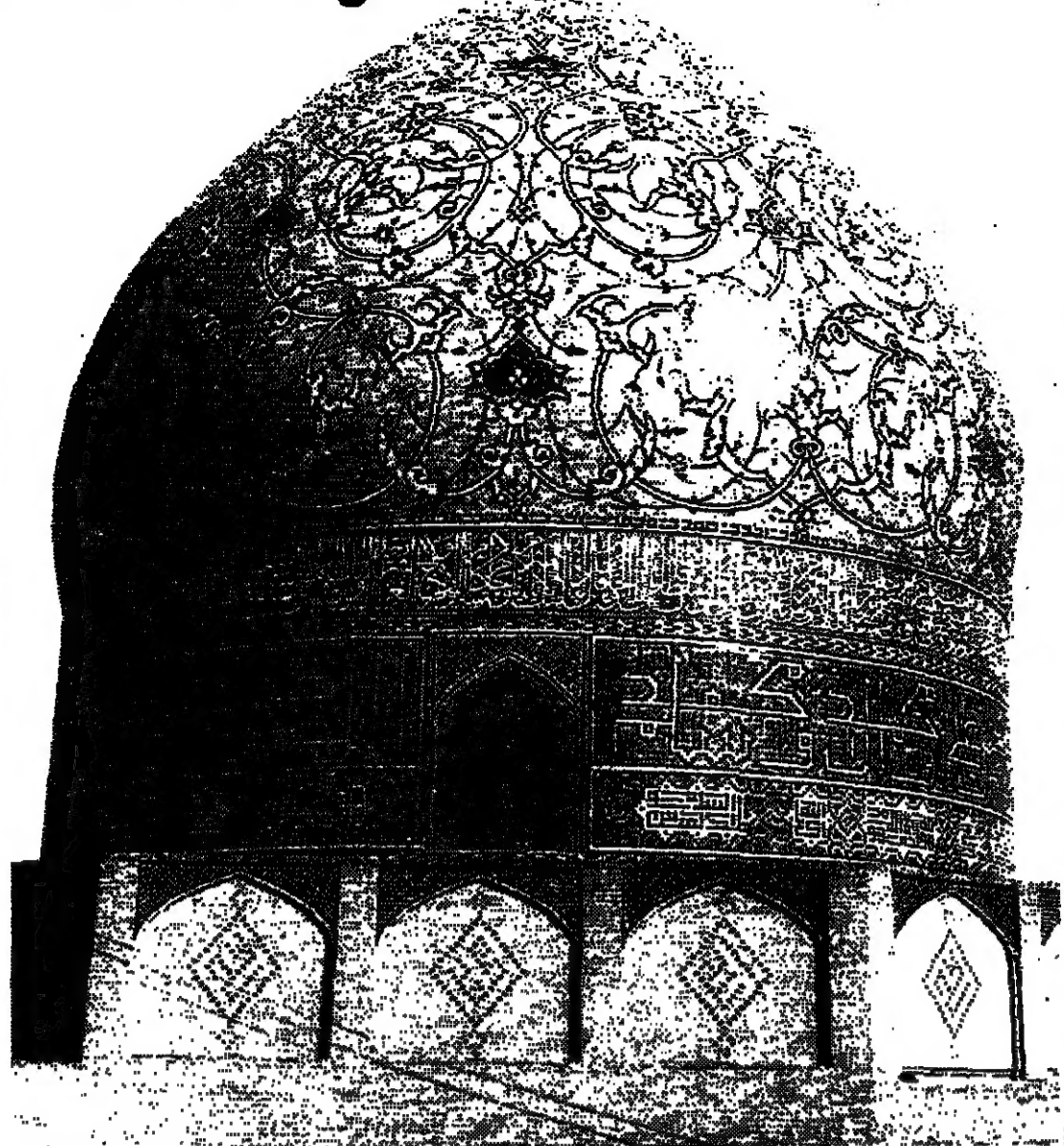
there is a presidential election at all. The practice began after the death of Khomeini in 1989 and has continued every four years. President Hashemi Rafsanjani has already served the maximum two four-year terms permitted under Iran's constitution.

"The most important thing about these elections is that they are coming out in time," says Menashri, who next week will lecture on Iran in the inauguration of a chair for modern Iranian studies at Tel Aviv University, sponsored by Iranian entrepreneur Parviz Nazarian. "This is the most important sign of stability. Rafsanjani wanted to be president again but the constitution said you can't be president for a third term and he obeyed."

Democracy Iranian-style is built on Islamic consensus. Not everyone can run for president or any public office in Iran. The Council of Guardians, a body dominated by clerics, must approve each candidate. The council disqualified about 40 percent of last year's 5,000 entries in parliamentary elections.

In the last presidential elections in 1993, the council approved three out of 100 would-be candidates. The council does not explain its reason for disqualification.

This election - in which a candidate must win 50 percent of the vote to avoid a second round -



merchants.

The assessment is that this endorsement means he could use the nationwide network of mosques to bring out the vote. His chief opponent is

socialist-minded clergy and the university students. He is regarded as being close to Rafsanjani.

Mohammed Mohammadi Reyskhani is also a cleric. He represents the radical wing and he is regarded as a threat to Naeq-Noori's efforts to tap the religious constituency. He is most closely identified with the "Death to America and Israel" wing of the electorate.

Reza Zavareh, another cleric, was deputy interior minister. He is regarded as one of Iran's most prominent extremists. His claim to fame was as head of Kasser prison, where so-called "enemies of the revolution" were jailed.

Non-clerics and liberals were disqualified by the Council of Guardians. One of them was Ibrahim Yazdi, an English-speaking former foreign minister who once had a green card and lived in Texas. He had advocated normal relations with America and the creation of a democratic atmosphere in Iran.

The campaign debate has been

limited. No candidate, for example, would dare discuss the huge Iranian nonconventional arms program, the pros and cons of the Arab-Israeli peace talks, the Iranian backing of terrorism, or even the wisdom of the death warrant on author Salman Rushdie. But the consequences of Iranian policy are being discussed.

Most of these consequences have been economic. Parliament speaker Naeq-Noori drives in a bullet-proof Mercedes, but most Iranians can't make ends meet. Many of these Iranians don't enjoy the profits of the Organization of the Oppressed, headed by Muhsein Rafiqdust, which invests an estimated \$120 million in Western banks. Rafiqdust's brother, Morteza, is in jail charged with embezzling about \$400 million of these funds.

Iran has improved its finances from the dark days of 1993. It has rescheduled \$10 billion in debt. But 25 percent of oil revenues, which remain stagnant, are allocated for debt repayment. Unemployment remains high - a result of the rampant birth rate - although official figures don't reflect this.

"The biggest problem of Iran is to get out of its economic woes," Menashri says. "The revolution has lost its ideology. The religious rule Iran, Khomeini wanted theologians. Those who rule Iran today don't have high religious authority. Today, the economic situation of the lower classes is difficult. They need housing, education, health care." Menashri views Iran as having turned to nationalism rather than adhere to the principles of an Iranian revolution. "There is a process of pragmatism," he says. "The Iranian revolution is not directed by ideologues. The Shi'ites in Iraq wanted help but Iran didn't give it to them. The Kurds in Iraq wanted help and they didn't get it."

Regardless, whoever is presi-



Iranian women can shoot, but should they be allowed to ride bicycles? That's one of the issues in next week's elections.

dent will face strict limitations, perhaps even greater than those Rafsanjani faced. Looking over his shoulder will be Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the nation's spiritual leader and bearer of the revolutionary torch. Since 1993, he has eclipsed Rafsanjani as the most powerful man in Iran, insisting on supporting terrorism - such as the killing of dissidents despite the diplomatic cost. In April, a Berlin court implicated Khamenei and Rafsanjani in the 1992 murder of four Iranian Kurdish dissidents.

Analysts believe Khamenei will bring Naeq-Noori into an alliance to marginalize Rafsanjani.

For his part, Rafsanjani has no plans to retire from politics and return to his family of pistachio dealers. He is said to be wishing for a Khatami victory, which would help him fulfill his ambition of being appointed deputy supreme leader. The last person in that position was Hussein Ali Montazeri, Khomeini's deputy, who was dismissed in 1989.

Analysts don't believe that in the end any of the candidates will make a difference regarding Iranian relations with Israel or the US. "Whoever wins would have a muddle-through policy," Clawson says.

"If Khatami wins he would be more open to foreign investment. Perhaps 10 years down the line, you can see a government that goes the Khatami route or the

Naeq-Noori road. Now, there isn't much difference for Israel and US." The Dayan Center's Menashri agrees. He says Iran has become a nation that has calculated its risks.

"Until now, it has withdrawn from almost all of its ideological creed," he says. "The question is whether it will also steer away from its anti-Israeli and anti-American attitude. One way of looking is that it already has steered away from the everything else, it will stop its anti-Israel approach. The other attitude is because it has done everything else, the anti-Israel element is the only element in the legitimacy of the regime. After Rafsanjani, it could be one way or the other."

But, for the average Iranian there is precious little time left for the status quo. As the 21-year-old student in Salam put it in his letter, the future of Iran appears foreboding. "The chador [garment worn by Iranian women] was the problem for my generation," he writes. "Censorship and dictates are the problem for every generation. Perhaps we relate to this as normal and natural but I am scared. As a representative of my generation I want to say to you that the revolution, the war and the front are not understood the way they were understood by the previous generation. And don't answer me that this is the work of enemies or wicked people."

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Fears for the future

As the 20th century draws to a close, Elie Wiesel predicts that within a few years even sympathizers will tire of hearing about the Holocaust. **Elli Wohlgelemer reports**

The enormous worldwide increase in Holocaust awareness over the last 10 years is a direct result of history — with a capital "H" — trying to cleanse itself of its own bile as the century comes to a close, says writer, professor, Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel.

"All the dirt of the 20th century is coming up," he says, "as if history wants to purge itself of its demons, of its phantom, of its nightmare. And also because the generation of the survivors is dying out, and this is the last chance, the last grasp to see a living survivor — I was there, I was there."

"It's true, there isn't a day without having at least one story in *The New York Times* related to the Holocaust. It's a way of making up for all the times that they didn't speak about it in the press when the Holocaust was happening."

The result of so much media attention, Wiesel says, is a backlash of antisemitism, with charges from the likes of Louis Farrakhan, that Jews are obsessed with the topic. "It means that not only did the Jews suffer, they dare to speak of their suffering — they accuse us of speaking of suffering, as if we wanted to suffer," he says, in an interview this week with *The Jerusalem Post*.

Interest in the Holocaust over the past year has taken a specific focus: the tons of gold and millions of dollars that Nazi Germany shipped to Switzerland — much of it coming from Jewish inmates of concentration camps — and Jewish efforts to retrieve that gold.

"The Swiss press at one point became antisemitic. There was a cartoon in the Swiss papers, showing the *Kotel Hama'aravi* [Western Wall] as gold bullion, and a few worshipping it. Can you imagine? The old antisemitic archetypes are coming back, that we Jews want nothing but money — they forget that this is not their money, but Jewish money — they want money, all they want is money," that was the impression. I made a statement about it, saying the main thing is to not make collective judgments [against the Swiss]. I don't believe in collective guilt. But look, they have a problem. Can you imagine — the *Kotel Hama'aravi* in gold bullion?"

The heightened attention to the Holocaust now, Wiesel fears,

will shift with the passing century. "Antisemitism will remain, but I think that in the year 2000, or sometime thereafter, there will be a change in awareness with regard to the Holocaust. There will be a day when good friends of ours will come and say, 'Listen, you know we are with you. But, it's enough. Our children cannot take it anymore. It's the year 2000 — the century is over, the millennium is over — give us a chance now to breathe. Once a year we will come and cry with you on Yom Hashoah. We will do everything. But we cannot take it every day.'"

"And you know something? We are not equipped to answer. What do you answer to that? And that's the good people. If it's bad people, I couldn't care less. Now it's Farrakhan. But good people will say, 'Enough. There are other things now, there are other issues, other events, other obligations, other priorities — we cannot go on like that every day.' Because the moment you say 'Holocaust' everything else fades away." As for Holocaust deniers, Wiesel maintains that fighting them only helps their cause, and that we shouldn't attach any importance to them, or grant them the dignity of a debate.

"These are people who are mentally ill, morally ill," he says. "But the books they publish? Let them, who cares. I am not afraid of them." The real problem with deniers, Wiesel says, is the Internet, and how it's used to spread lies and hate, especially to young people. He proposes holding a closed-door meeting with the best legal minds, as well as philosophers, to discuss the issue of free speech, and what should be done.

"Of all the things, this is the most important. They are well organized, and they have tremendous amounts of money," Wiesel relates the story of how on the day he received his Nobel Peace Prize he was given an extra cordon of security guards — he couldn't understand why until he learned later that the deniers were staging a demonstration against him while the ceremony was taking place.

"In the street, there were deniers, dozens and dozens of deniers, who came from all over Europe. That means that somebody organized them, somebody paid for their tickets, somebody got them hotel rooms — they



Elie Wiesel: When I want to smile I think of children. When I want to weep I think of children. It's always children. (Bryan McBratney)

have money, they have tremendous amounts of money," he warns.

The close of the 20th century is also bringing with it a worldwide rise in fanaticism, which Wiesel says is his main concern now.

"There will be a day when good friends of ours will come and say: 'Listen, you know we are with you. But, it's enough. It's the year 2000... There are other things now, there are other issues.'"

"Intolerance, bigotry — it's worse than ever. In every religion, by the way, and ethnically? What is Bosnia? Fanaticism. What is Rwanda? Fanaticism."

"It's ethnic fanaticism, racist fanaticism, religious fanaticism — and in our own community, too. It's happening to the whole world, but as always, what happens to the world happens to us, but more so."

The worst part of it, he says, is that "when you combine fanaticism and power, then it's dangerous. Fanaticism itself is bad — it's bad for culture, it's bad for civilization, it's bad for art, it's bad for humanity — but when you combine fanaticism with power, especially lately, with nuclear power, and bacteriological weapons, as could very well happen..."

AS HE sits in the lobby of the King David Hotel, his voice trails off, and you sense he is thinking back on his own personal experience with fanaticism and power. Born in Sighet, Transylvania, in 1928, Wiesel

tial questions, were all in French." It remained his language of expression.

"I can teach in English, and write an article in Hebrew, but not books, no. Books come from a different zone."

As a child, Wiesel was fluent

in Yiddish, which his family spoke at home, as well as Hungarian and Romanian. At the age of 12, he started to learn Hebrew.

"I had a friend, Yerahmiel was his name, he was killed in the Holocaust. The two of us spoke modern Hebrew one hour a day. That was my father's deal with me. At that time I only studied *limudei kodesh* [religious studies]."

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"My father had brought a teacher [to Sighet], and he had a book on *dikduk* [Hebrew grammar] and I wanted to buy it, but I couldn't — who in Sighet had books like that? So I learned the whole book by heart. Big deal, for a yeshiva bocher who studies pages by heart — what's another book? I can quote it today, the whole book, because I learned it by heart. That's how I learned modern Hebrew, and that helped me later on. I thank my father." Where it helped was getting a job. Wiesel first came to Israel in 1949, as a poor French journalist; he went back as an Israeli correspondent for *Yedio'ot Aharonot*. He tries to come here now once a year, although his last trip was a year and a half ago.

"I came here for [prime minister Yitzhak] Rabin's funeral. [US President Bill] Clinton took me in his plane. It was a special experience. Clinton's a good president for us, a very good president."

Wiesel was here this week to receive the first Guardian of Zion award from Bar-Ilan University's Rennett Center for Jerusalem Studies, another in a long list of awards that he has received including the US Presidential Medal of Freedom, the US Congressional Gold Medal, the Medal of Liberty Award, the rank of Grand Officer in the French Legion of Honor, and of course, the Nobel

Peace Prize in 1986. From that money he established the Wiesel Foundation for Humanity. Its current project is establishing centers in Israel for Ethiopian children.

"This is something which is very moving to me. First [comes] children. For me, Jewish children can do with me whatever they want. When I want to smile I think of children, when I want to weep I think of children. It's always children. And Ethiopian children — they are so beautiful and so bright, and they need [so much]. Wiesel doesn't speak of his many awards, notwithstanding all the honor bestowed in his lifetime. Wiesel, first and foremost besides being a Holocaust survivor, is a writer.

HE ACKNOWLEDGES that of the 35 books he has written, the two that were most important historically were his first, *Night*, published in French in 1958, and *The Jews of Silence*, published in English in 1966.

"*Night*, because it opened up something, and *Jews of Silence*, because it did something," *Night*, he says, "created a certain awareness among young people," while *Jews of Silence* "sparked the [Soviet Jewry] movement — though not immediately. At that time I would go from one Jewish convention to the other, and they didn't want to hear [about] it. Just as they didn't want to hear about the Holocaust at the beginning."

Asked if from all his books he's proudest of these two, Wiesel says, "I'm not proud of either. Really, it's not a matter of pride. I would say that I identify with [them] more. But look, I identify with all of my books. I wouldn't have written any if I hadn't."

"I have no urge to publish, I have the urge to write. Sometimes I keep manuscripts in my drawers for years. If I write I'm at peace with it, I wouldn't change a single book. But certain books stand out, and *Night* stands out, and *Jews of Silence*." He's working on another novel, a book on the Prophets, and the third volume of his memoirs. Of the first volume, which was published in English last year, Wiesel says: "no other book of mine has received such an amazing reception all over the world." The second volume will be published in English next year.

Is there anything left to accomplish?

"Oh, I haven't accomplished anything. I'm serious. I've written many books, but deep, deep down I know I haven't even begun. I have written so many things — plays, cantatas, novels, essays — and about so many subjects."

"Nevertheless, I have the feeling I haven't even begun. One day I will begin, but I haven't begun yet."

On his own merits

MK Avraham Poraz, the sole representative of the Shinui party in the Knesset, is trying to woo middle-class, secular liberals away from Meretz, **Liat Collins writes**

Politics is a lonely business, but for MK Avraham Poraz the Knesset is lonelier than for most. Since Poraz's Shinui party refused to merge with Meretz some six months ago, he has been left as the sole representative of his faction in the House. Although he still works under the auspices of Meretz, his relationship towards them is similar to that of Geshet to Likud. He plans to run in the next elections as Shinui, completely independent of Meretz, but, he admits, "It's tough."

Poraz's platform — and much of his parliamentary work — focuses on the middle class, "which is the class that usually gets overlooked. The rich look after their own and everybody looks out for the rights of the poor but if you are struggling along in the middle, nobody notices although the middle class is the backbone of the economy." The split from Meretz was over economic issues, "I am a liberal," Poraz states categorically.

Meretz was founded in 1992, a merger of three parties — the Citizens' Rights Movement, Shinui and Mapam — which had both a common denominator and large differences. The common denominator was their support of the peace process and the objections to religious coercion but there were huge differences in the socioeconomic area. Shinui is liberal towards capitalism whereas the CRM and particularly Mapam

are strikingly socialist. On the peace process, he says, "I have dovish political views, and generally seek compromise. I support Oslo and I supported Rabin and Peres. I am very scared that Binyamin Netanyahu's government could bring us to war with the Arab world and put IDF units into Arab villages in the territories." Poraz favors an independent Palestinian state. "It should have a limited army. On Jerusalem, we need to find a solution. [Labor MK] Yossi Beilin's direction of an Arab capital around Abu Dis outside Jerusalem municipal borders is not a bad one."

Poraz's party will work on attracting followers over socioeconomic issues more than ideological ones, Poraz says. "Particularly today in the age of direct elections when you can split your vote between party and premier, there is room for a significant liberal party in favor of free-market economy, which will make an effort to cut state expenditure and lower taxes, will fight for human rights and which will be politically moderate. This basis exists in Shinui."

He refuses to disclose how many members Shinui actually has after the split, but says that two-thirds of Shinui's council stayed with the party and only a third moved to Meretz. "I want it to expand to include other liberal groups which today have no address. This includes people not active in poli-



Avraham Poraz

tics today like academics and people in white-collar professions."

MK Amnon Rubinstein, a founder of Shinui who originally encouraged Poraz to join it, decided to stick with Meretz. "I believe that he will also find it difficult with Meretz. I don't know if he wants to run again or not, but if he does it will not be easy for him," says Poraz.

Poraz's fight for the middle classes has always been evident. In the most recent budget, this was seen in his opposition to the plan

to cut child benefits for the first and second child. "What would that mean? Who has two children? The middle class. Who has four and more? The poor." (He is the married father of two.)

Another of his ongoing struggles has been to equalize the rights between salaried employees and the self-employed. "It's a mistake to believe that all self-employed are rich and all salaried employees are poor. An MK is salaried, a shoe repairman and small store owner might be self-employed. For some

reason one pays less income tax than the other. It's discriminatory," he says. "Some things we've managed to rectify, like the way the self-employed did not have a tax-free advanced study fund."

Not all of his fights have been popular. Poraz opposed raising the minimum wage, calling it "a certain recipe for unemployment, particularly in places like the textile industry which has to compete with the cheap labor force of the third world and elsewhere."

A lawyer by profession, Poraz, 52, has been in the Knesset since 1988. During his career, he has been a prolific parliamentarian, producing some 40 private member's bills. He is particularly proud of two: the country's first Anti-Cruelty to Animals Law and a parallel law restricting experiments on animals. The anti-cruelty law raised the possible sentence for offenders to three years in prison and for the first time allowed animal welfare groups, along with the police, to confiscate an abused animal.

"We established the norm that it is a criminal offense to abuse animals. I see that as a moral issue and an important recognition of the fact that a civilized country treats its animals well," he says. Not all his bills have been equally successful or well-received. Poraz is still struggling against the religious parties to legalize but restrict prostitution. "It's hypocritical to believe that it doesn't go on, so the best thing to do is to at least regulate it, get it out of private people's backyards and off the beaches, control the spreading of diseases, and even get them to pay taxes on the profits. Why should a hairdresser who works hard standing on her feet all day pay taxes and a prostitute not pay?" he says, with a characteristic hint of dry humor.

See PORAZ, Page 18

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Uzbekistan's Jewish renaissance



A wall painting in the Amir Temur Museum in Tashkent depicting events in the life of Amir Temur, commonly known as Tamerlane, a 14th century leader considered the spiritual and political father of Uzbekistan.

(Aryeh Dean Cohen)

Despite a renewal of Jewish tradition, economics is forcing Jews to leave this Central Asian republic, Aryeh Dean Cohen reports

It was altogether fitting for a delegation from the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations to spend Rosh Hodesh Adar II with the Jews of Uzbekistan, traditionally considered descendants of Queen Esther and Mordechai.

But unlike their illustrious ancestors, Uzbeki Jews have a benevolent ruler in President Islam Karimov, whose tolerance has spawned a Jewish renaissance in the Central Asian republic. Indeed, that very attitude has opened the door to an exodus to Israel and the US that may soon spell the end of the proud community.

Like the *kvedo*, or phoenix, an Uzbeki national symbol, local Jewish tradition has emerged from the ashes of Soviet religious repression, with Jews now free to pursue and study their religion. Antisemitism is practically nonexistent, so it's not fear of persecution, or even Zionism, but pure economics that has most of the 28,000 remaining Jewish families waiting for a chance to leave. (The figure is based on the number who meet the criteria for immigrating under the Law of Return.)

Nonetheless, the trip provided a rare opportunity to see the efforts by Jewish groups to rekindle yiddishkeit in Uzbekistan, and prepare its Jews for life in Israel. Meeting with the Uzbeki Jews was like discovering long-lost rela-

tives: full of warm embraces, but also concern for their welfare.

Karimov is proud that Jews have lived in Uzbekistan "from time immemorial," a big statement in an area in which Jews have lived for almost 2,000 years. Uzbekistan's rich history is felt in ancient towns like Bukhara, with its towering medieval *madrasahs* or Islamic schools and crumbling Mongol desert fortress. But, while the Jewish community may have a centuries-old heritage, that tradition was cut off under Communism.

"Certainly, for the last 74 years, from the time the Soviet Union was in control of Central Asia, their contacts with the international Jewish community were severely limited," US Ambassador Stanley Escudero explained during a briefing in Tashkent. "They simply didn't know, they didn't have the [Jewish] experience... that you have all grown up with. And so for them, this is a very emotional time."

Those emotions were evident during every encounter, as at Or Avner Tashkent, a Habad-run Jewish day school, perhaps the only Habad institution in which a picture of the Lubavitcher rebbe has to share a wall with a portrait of Karimov. But Karimov has earned his spot by openly encouraging the establishment of such schools.

Habad's done wonders here,



Two classmates at the new Or Avner day school in Tashkent, where demand to attend far exceeds available space.

(Aryeh Dean Cohen)

largely through the generosity of a local boy who made good: former Tashkent resident and now major international diamond merchant Lev Leviev. With his backing, Lubavitch workers have transformed a former factory into a beehive of Jewish learning. The 350 beaming Jewish pupils in grades 1 to 11 were dressed in their finest, girls with large, colored bows in their hair, boys in white shirts, some Russian-looking, some more Mongolian.

Yosef Levin, a teacher from Rehovot, explained the school, one of several Jewish day schools in the country, only opened this year, but is already filled, with two classes recently added.

The youngsters recited out of textbooks supplied by Jewish Agency and Joint Distribution Committee, and it was easy to feel as though one was in a yeshiva in the US. There was one major difference: alongside Karimov's picture hung the words of the Uzbeki national anthem and a list of presidential decrees. Clearly, this was not Queens.

And what Jewish community would be worth its salt without dueling rabbis? At the school, we met Rabbi Abba David Gurewitz, an Ashkenazi rabbi who handed out cards reading "Chief Rabbi of Central Asia." Members of the large Bukharan Jewish population pooh-poohed that idea, and follow 36-year-old Rabbi Immanuel Shimanov. Tashkent is more Ashkenazi, while Samarkand and Bukhara to the south have more Bukharan and Sephardi populations.

Acting Israeli ambassador Ilan Ron said 5,700 Uzbeki Jews had immigrated to Israel in 1995, and this had fallen to 3,922 in 1996. About 300 to 500 leave each month now, with thousands more coming as tourists, some deciding to stay.

Karimov's open-door policy has naturally led to many people flocking to the exits, some who are ineligible but still keep trying. "We have a problem," admits First Secretary Michael Dror. "There's a very large demand to be Jewish today. There's a wave of forged documents, and people try to pull one over on us. We're always checking very carefully and if we have any doubts, we either ask for more proof or reject the person." More latitude is permitted in severe situations.

But unity was the theme of our visit to the Israeli Center, a Tashkent cultural center established in 1992 by the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency offering Hebrew and other information about Israel to Jews and non-Jews. After a moving pageant performed by Cultural Center members, featuring everything from opera to ballroom dancing, both hosts and guests had opened their hearts. When the program ended with *Hatikva*, there wasn't a dry eye in the house, a moment made larger by Escudero's later noting that "six or seven years ago, that could not possibly have happened."

Mission chairman Lester Pollak told them: "You are our brothers and sisters, and we care for you." Outside, as we boarded our bus, one of those sisters, an elderly Jewish woman, waved to us, crying into a handkerchief as she did, apparently overcome by this rare contact with other Jews.

The next day we took a rickety Uzbek Air flight to Samarkand, where some 200,000 Jews found

refuge from the Nazis and which produced many great Jewish leaders, especially for the Lubavitch movement. It was easy to understand why they had come: Samarkand is to Tashkent what Jerusalem is to Tel Aviv. Suddenly, we'd traded large, ugly Soviet housing projects for long, well-kept homes on wide boulevards in this sparkling town in the hills.

More Jewish day-school children greeted us at the hotel, but the suitcases are packed here, too. "The community is totally breaking up," Ilana Cooper, a doctoral student from Boston University who had been staying with local families, explained. "It seems every person is planning to leave."

must do it, because I am Jewish and must live in Israel. Everyone who is Jewish leaves. I was born here and like Samarkand, but I must go live in Israel because I think my home is there."

Jewish Agency emissary Simha Harkochav, 25, explained how the Agency tries to prepare the immigrants. "There are people who have been living here for 70 years and haven't learnt anything about Judaism, Israel or their history. What we're doing is trying to slowly give them a little more [information] about the Jewish nation, the State of Israel, and Hebrew." Practical information about housing and jobs is also included. "They get letters from Israel, they know what's up, but

An ally in the Moslem world

If Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov has his way, Western and other investors won't have to go running to an atlas much longer to find out why it's in their global interests to have close relations with his emerging nation.

The most populous Central Asian republic, Uzbekistan has an area larger than California, and borders Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. Its 19.9 million people are divided into almost 100 nationalities, including Jews who have lived there for almost 2,000 years.

Karimov means "master of his own fate" in Uzbeki, but fate has also dealt Karimov a pretty good hand with which to pursue friends in the West. His country's central location makes it, as US Ambassador Stanley Escudero put it, "one of only a few states in the region capable of playing an anchoring role" for US interests in the region. And its huge oil, natural gas and mineral reserves, particularly gold, are likely to have Western states soon standing in line to accept Karimov's offers to go steady.

"The fact is that in Central Asia and the countries in the basin of the Caspian Sea, you find the second largest concentration of hydrocarbon resources on the planet," Escudero explained. "We need that oil and that gas and we

need ways to get it out of here that will not be dependent on Russia, so that there are alternatives just in case things don't go the way we would all like in Russia."

The natural gas "will enable us to think differently about the Persian Gulf and the Middle East," he says, "and it will guarantee energy supplies forever," with Israel also a potential beneficiary.

But it's not just what's on the ground that has Western states beating down the president's door—it's also what he says. His strong stand against terrorism and fundamentalism has won him many friends, and the fact that his country—with a population that is 90 percent Moslem—is one of the few bastions of moderate Islam in a region aglow with religious fundamentalism makes him the kind of friend that Israel, in particular, wants to have.

Uzbekistan recently upgraded its consulate in Tel Aviv to an embassy, and Karimov, who expressed great admiration for Binyamin Netanyahu, is expected

to visit later this year.

Israel's ties with Uzbekistan are focused largely around agriculture, since the country is in the midst of retooling its vast agriculture enterprise into more modern, moshav-like arrangements.

The Foreign Ministry's Mashav program, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, is training Uzbeki farmers to use new dairy equipment which they hope will triple or quadruple milk production.

"We are helping people to help themselves," explained Avi Horesh, who heads the program in Uzbekistan, along with Natan Ben-Or. "I consider this to be the jewel in the crown in the relationship," Ron said, "and I think that the people appreciate the help, assistance and knowledge we share with them." Indeed, Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov called such cooperation with Israel "of crucial importance."

Karimov's liberal treatment of the country's Jewish population

isn't hurting his overtures to the West either. "There has never been, and I believe there never will be, antisemitism here in Uzbekistan," he said.

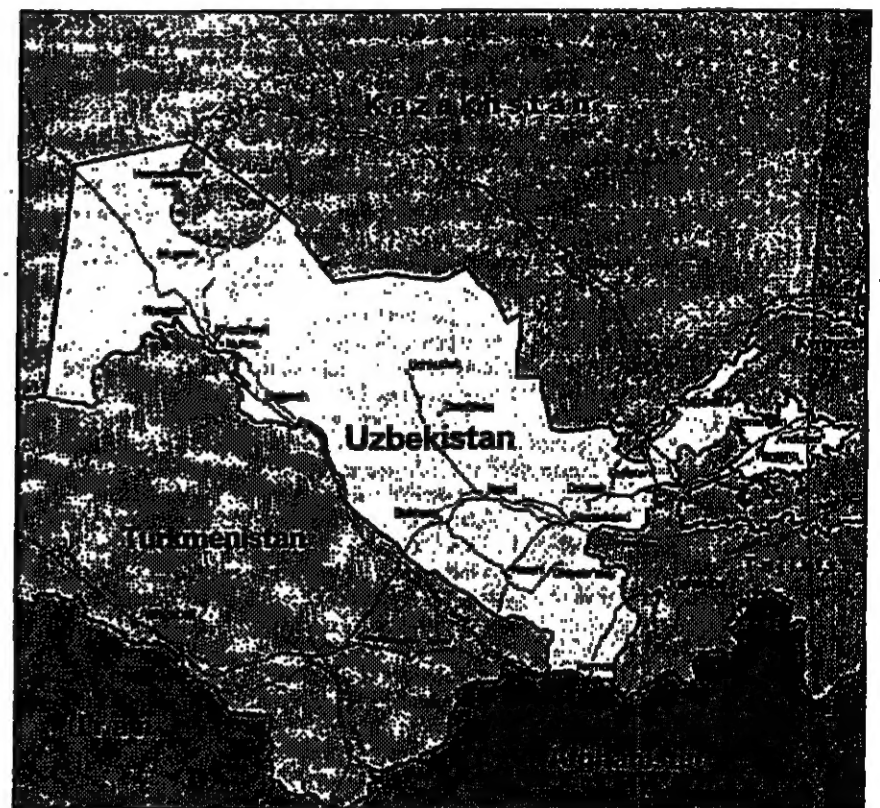
US Congressman Gerald Nadler came away quite impressed. "Now I understand the strategic importance of Uzbekistan, that it has a very friendly government that is wary of Islamic fundamentalism, regards the current government in Iran with the same kind of loathing and concern we do, and wants to develop closer ties with the West and Israel. It's very clear where he wants to go, which is where we and Israel want him to go, so we have to help him."

Michael Dror, First Secretary at the Israeli Embassy in Tashkent, knows Karimov sees good relations with Israel and proper treatment of Uzbeki Jews as a way to win Western investment. "I'm sure he's taken that into consideration," he said, but added: "We are maintaining diplomatic relations with a Moslem country, which is already an accomplishment, since we don't have relations, especially friendly ones, with too many of them." Says Ron: "I think he's a man with a vision. In the world of today, when someone adopts a realpolitik diplomacy, I'm satisfied."

—A.D.C.



President Karimov



Many Uzbeki Jews left in the early '70s and in 1990 when restrictions were lifted briefly by the Communists. "They didn't know when the window of opportunity would be closed, so, without thinking, they just decided to get out of here as soon as possible," she said. The early wave of emigration created someplace for the Jews to go, to Israel or the US.

Civil war in neighboring Tajikistan which led the Israeli government to airlift its Jews to Israel in 1991 didn't help calm nerves, either, although Uzbekistan is considered stable. "There's no panic anymore," Cooper said, "but everyone says there's no future. There's no one for the kids to marry, they can't envisage raising another generation here. The parents say: 'We know it's going to be hard, but we're going for our children.'"

"I don't get a sense there is strong Zionist feeling here," she said, echoing Szyf's earlier comments. "Their decision on where to go—Israel or the US—is based on very practical considerations, such as where the relatives are."

Over Shabbat dinner with local Jews, we understood what she had said. Irena and Sergei were going to join their daughter, a surgeon, in New York's Rego Park. Anna and Boris said they were anxious to come to Israel to be with family, but were unsure whether Boris, a musician, would find work. They also shared another concern prominent in the minds of Uzbeki Jews: Giving up their large home, which they were having trouble selling, for a small Israeli apartment. Indeed, Shimanov told us about a large ring of keys he has belonging to local Jews who decided to leave even without selling their homes.

Most immigrants are young, like Misha Izhakov, 21, who was just a few days away from aliya. He'd been to Israel twice, and "liked it." His uncles and aunts are in Israel, but he is going alone. His parents are "a little worried, but think I

many see no future here, and make aliya," he says. Karimov wants to grant the Agency the right to publicize its events, something which had been forbidden until our visit. There were other improvements on display on Shabbat morning as we followed Shimanov on foot through the Samarkand streets, where traffic was stopped for us. Services were packed in the "new" synagogue, which had been given a fresh coat of paint, one of many repairs made at Jewish institutions by the government just prior to our arrival.

But only in the afternoon did we get a glimpse of the glory and the shame making the Jews' decision to leave so difficult, yet so necessary. Shimanov led us through back alleys to the Mahala Ghetto where the city's poorer Jews live. The ghetto includes the over 100-year-old Kalantar Synagogue, named after the Jewish merchant who bought the land in what was once the market center around which the ghetto grew, and built the exquisite domed building still used by a small group of worshippers.

The fine wood carving surrounding the outer part of the sanctuary testified to the devotion of the artisans who built it, as did the looks on the faces of the shabbily dressed men who welcomed us. But the horrid living conditions in the ghetto, with its open sewers and ramshackle homes, made it clear that pride was one of the few possessions these people had left. Their situation crystallized the hard choice facing Uzbeki Jews: participate in rebuilding such proud institutions, an opportunity offered by the benevolent Karimov, or abandon their poverty and continue their exodus abroad.

Most Uzbeki Jews are choosing the latter option, for while they may have a benevolent leader now, there is no guarantee that in the future he will not be replaced by one "who knew not Joseph."

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THE JERUSALEM
POST

MIDDLE ISRAEL



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

Considering that he is still breathing, hickering, and in all likelihood plotting, eulogizing Shimon Peres's 50-year-old career may be premature.

And yet the resounding vote of confidence the nation has received this week means more than anything else, that the party which had shed so many tears over his successive electoral setbacks is now through with him; smugly so that many of his former allies now treat Peres with the combination of fear and mercy which afflict some when faced with a beguiling leper in a Bombay shop, or a homeless AIDS victim sprawled on a Manhattan sidewalk.

But Peres is no devil.

Yes, he suffers from a dire lack of charisma and his pathetic attempt this week to cling onto power like a leech to his mother's nipples made him seem like a local version of Mobutu Sese Seko. But Peres is not Mobutu. He embezzled from the state, he lives in an unassuming apartment building not markedly different from most Israelis', and - most importantly - he has a real conviction, which is a lot more than can be said of most other detractors.

Peres would have liked to be a local version of his good friend François Mitterrand, whose repeat

ed electoral defeats culminated in a 14-year presidency during which he played a decisive role in shaping a post-nationalist Europe. But Peres is already eight years older than Mitterrand was when he finally conquered the Elysée in 1981.

Having given up on being Mitterrand Peres hoped to emulate Konrad Adenauer, who was 73 when he began an impressive 14-year leadership of war-devastated West Germany. But postwar Germany ended up with that choice simply because it was difficult to find in it a leader who would be both politically seasoned and devoid of a Nazi past. Israel, fortunately, has no shortage of aspiring leaders, and Peres's assumption that he is in a league of his own is not shared even by his own party.

Finally, the outgoing Labor leader hoped he could at least follow in Willy Brandt's footsteps, by enriching the post-incumbency part of his life with the title of party president. But Peres will also not be Brandt, since too many people have vivid recollections of his tendency to grab the wheel from the driver alongside him.

If anything, Peres is Israel's own Richard Nixon. Like the enigmatic career of the president so many Americans loved to hate, Peres's was that of an ambitious underdog whose diplomatic vision, political blunders, and ideological metamorphosis could leave almost no one indifferent.

For a decade and a half since the early '50s, as a senior executive in the defense ministry, Peres was the strong man of Israel's budding military-industrial complex. In fact, today's quintessential peace guru was originally a super-hawk who actively supported the decision in

'56 to wage war on Egypt and after the '67 war backed the establishment of Jewish settlements in the newly occupied territories. However, like Nixon, an ultimately sober Peres came to understand the geopolitical limits of military power.

HOW, WHEN, and why did this father of Israel's defenses and champion of her regional expansion become the ultra-dovish harbinger of territorial retreat and Palestinian statehood? Until now Peres has never candidly told us. In his autobiography *Battling for Peace* he seems to deny his views developed as events unfolded.

Yet too many Israelis recall how, as minister of defense in the mid-'70s, Peres endorsed the establishment of Ofra, the first Israeli settlement in the densely Palestinian-populated parts of the West Bank. In that book Peres preferred to ignore this, and wrote instead that he had always feared the neo-Messianic settlers would "elevate the Holy Land to a level that supercedes the holiness of man." Today such criticism is shared by many. In the '70s it was harbored by a select few; Peres was not among them.

Even more perplexing was Peres's assertion that in the mid-'70s he served prime minister Yitzhak Rabin "loyally." The fact is that in February '77, while he was a minister in Rabin's cabinet, Peres tried to oust Rabin in a vote in the party caucus. It was the equivalent of Al Gore running against Bill Clinton in last year's Democratic primaries.

Understandably, the people never liked this kind of fagging, and when Labor finally won an election it was after it had replaced Peres with his arch-rival Rabin.

Peres watched helplessly as even the Hissadrut, which he had patronized for 15 years, stabbed him in the back and withdrew their support for him. And so, like Moses at the gates of the promised land, Peres looked on as his nemesis of 18 years threw into history's dustbin Peres's burning ambition to lead Israel into the next century.

A universally celebrated bookworm, Peres could certainly describe over a good few richly worded pages the terrible pain all this must have caused him. Instead, his autobiography grudgingly admits in one way paragraph that he was bitter, "but bitterness is not statesmanship."

Well, now the statesmanship days are over; at least they should be, so that - to paraphrase Nixon - we won't have Shimon to kick around any more.

If he wants to pluck his life story out of its Nixonian map, Peres should make do with his past diplomatic achievements, and spend the remainder of his career nurturing a long-overdue dialogue with those parts of this society whose trust Labor repeatedly failed to win.

Indeed, it was a very telling moment when Peres rhetorically asked this week whether he was the one who had put and end to Labor's historic alliance with the NRP. No, it wasn't Peres, it was a boorish, short-sighted and arrogant Rabin; but who cares whose fault it was. The fact is that in the aftermath of Labor's fall from power in 1977, it repeatedly failed to wrest haredi, modern-Orthodox and working-class Israel from the Likud's firm grip.

Peres was certainly not the sole, or even the major reason for all this; he was simply being ground

thin between the quaking tectonic plates of a society in constant transition. And yet under his leadership Labor lost its old ability - maybe even the desire - to dialogue with domestic adversaries.

SYMBOLICALLY, PERES'S defacto ouster this week coincided with three seemingly unrelated events: The 20th anniversary of the Likud's rise to power, which falls this Saturday; the death of MK Avraham Sorek, the NRP's last moderate, parliamentarian; and Israel Prize winner and Kabbala scholar Yosef Dan's lamentation of secular Israel's abandonment of Judaic studies to the Orthodox and haredim among us.

When I was a child we lived across the street from then prime minister Levi Eshkol in Old Katamon. One evening I was singing lustily from his living room; it was in Yiddish. At hand were some of Old Mapi's best and brightest, like Pinhas Sapir. They might not have been great singers, but, having not only spoken Yiddish but also usually come from the shtetl and amended prewar Europe's yeshivot, they sure possessed the tools with which to communicate with contemporary religious Israel.

Today, by contrast, when people like Haim Ramon or Ehud Barak talk to people like Hanan Porat or Meir Porush, all they can do is engage in horse trading. When it comes to terminology, metaphors, associations, let alone beliefs, an abyss yawns between them. That abyss may eventually equal in its breadth and depth the one which lay between Arab and Jew when Peres concocted Oslo. Isn't it worth his time just as much?

Dry Bones



FUNDS



By BEVERLY BLACK

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Shabbat Shalom

Death of a statesman

'Oy vay, shoin fargessen!'

antiquity, serving as the Scots kings' coronation seat. In 1296 King Edward I brought it to London, where it lies under the coronation chair of the British kings.

As for the British, another legend says they are the original "Hebrews," on the basis of their name: the Hebrew *brith/covenant*, and *ish/man*. But that is another matter.

HARRY DAYAN of Petah Tikva asks what the connection is between the surname Shapiro and the Jewish priestly line of *kohanim*, descendants of Aaron, the first *kohen*.

I had written about Jewish surnames that indicate probable or possible Aaronide pedigree. There are some obvious *kohanic* names: Cohen in its many forms; Katz (acronym of the Hebrew *kohen zedeck*, meaning "authentic *kohen*"); Kaplan (Polish for "clergyman"); Azoulay (acronym of the passage in Leviticus 21:7, "isha zana yuhalela lo yikhalu/They (*kohanim*) shall not take a harlot or a woman profaned", borne by *kohanim* of Moroccan provenance; and Mazeh/Mazhazh (acronym of the Hebrew *mi'zera Aharon Hakohen*).

I also mentioned such names as Rapoport and Shapiro in all their forms, borne by many *kohanim*.

Dayan noted, correctly, that Shapiro/a and Spiro/a are assumed to derive from Speyer, the name of a German city famous in Jewish history.

There is no inherent connection between this name, or between the name Rapoport, and the Aaronide line. It is just that some of the distinguished men who first adopted these names were *kohanim* and they had many male descendants carrying on the names. But not all bearers of the names are of Aaronide descent. Neither are all people called Cohen or Katz, etc.

Dayan also asked why Jews should bear the name Kaplan, which "designates a

church dignitary in Polish and German." The only answer I can think of is that when Polish or Austro-Hungarian clerics were handing out surnames to Jews, some candidates reported themselves as, for example, Moshe Mordechai Hakohen (*the kohen*), and, after explaining, were dubbed M.M. Kaplan. Or perhaps some of them chose the name the way, for example, some Steinbergs changed their name to Stonehill in America. I'm sure there are a few Jewish "Priestleys" formerly "Cohen" around.

I had noted that Kaplan is also a common surname among Turkish Moslems, meaning "tiger" in that language, and Dayan wonders whether this has any significance regarding the Polish Kaplans. To the best of my knowledge, there is no connection.

Ingrid Galili of Ganei Yehuda wonders that the bearers of some "not very *kohanic*" names are nevertheless Aaronides.

I repeat: not all *kohanim* bear surnames indicating the fact, and not all bearers of such names are *kohanim*. Indeed, I have been told of a synagogue in New York whose congregants included only one *kohen*, and his name was Levin, and only one *levi*, and his name was Cohen.

Galili asks me to confirm that one of our former chief rabbis, who was a *kohen*, never Halacha by marrying a divorcee. I have never heard such a story. An Aaronide former deputy president of our Supreme Court did so.

Galili also reports that a *kohen* "once heard a rabbi advising the groom, a *kohen* (with an Aaronide name) who wanted to marry a "forbidden" woman, to change his name three times..."

I'm sure that rabbi was making a joke.

I HAVE had fresh inquiries about the meaning of this column's title, "A View from Nov." It has nothing to do with the Jewish village of that name in the Golan.

Nov, in the mountains near Jerusalem, was

one of the 13 towns Joshua allocated to the Aaronide priests (Joshua 21 and I Chronicles 6). When David was fleeing for his life from Saul, the priests of Nov sheltered him, gave him provisions, and even gave him Goliath's sword which he had been keeping.

For this, Saul ordered his guard to kill the priests. They refused, but Saul's adviser, Doeg, undertook the task and slew all 85 priests of Nov and their families and animals, and razed the town (I Samuel 22).

I GAVE the wrong source for the statement about a person's having three names. The correct source is *Midrash Tanhuma, Vayak'heil*, 1. I thank Mel Bornstein of Elkana for bringing my error to my attention.

That saying tells us: You have three names - the name your parents give you, the name others call you, and the name you earn through your deeds.

IF YOU are interested in the meaning and history of names, Bar-Ilan University history professor Aaron Demsky, in charge of the university's Project for the Study of Jewish Names, is organizing the Third International Conference on Jewish Onomastics to take place July 28-30. The first two days of the conference will be at B-IU and the third at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, as part of the 12th World Congress of Jewish Studies.

Among the more than 30 scheduled speakers are David Golinkin, who is to treat the use of the mother's name in the prayer for the sick; David Lipschitz, humorous names in the Talmud; Anita Novinsky, Christian names of the Marranos; and Edwin Lawson with kina Gushkovskaya, naming patterns of newcomers to Israel from Russian Georgia.

(Comments can be e-mailed to me at: moshe@jpost.co.il)

A VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHN

Surely, everybody of Yiddish-speaking provenance knows about that New York Hasid bearing the fine Gaelic name Sean (pronounced Shawn) Fergusson. Here it is for those who don't:

Jack in Boiberik he was Yankel Gershowitz. When he disembarked in New York, his cousin who had preceded him told him to adopt the more Anglophonic name of Jack Gale. He agreed, but by the time his turn came and the immigration clerk asked him his name, he had forgotten and he blurted in Yiddish: "Oy vay, shoin fargessen! Woe is me, I've forgotten already!"

The clerk, a former Dunderin, delightedly exclaimed: "Sean Fergusson it is!"

And thus he wrote, and Sean Fergusson it remained.

That story is apocryphal. In Israel, however, there really is a family whose forebears arrived here about six decades ago bearing a Russian name meaning "I don't remember."

Sean is Irish Gaelic for John, which stems from the Hebrew Yohanan. And Fergusson is Scots Gaelic meaning "son of Man Choise," which makes the Fergussons members of the Chosen People.

Add to this the legend establishing a Scottish-Jewish connection harking back to Patriarch Jacob: the Stone of Scone is the very stone on which Jacob slept and had his ladder dream at Bethel (Genesis 28). It was brought from Bethel to Scone, Scotland, in

SHABBAT SHALOM



By SHLOMO RISKIN

"And God said to Moses: 'Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron, and tell them none shall be defiled for the dead among his people; but for his kin that is near to him, for his mother, and for his father...'" (Lev. 21:1-2)

We've just been through the part of the year which reflects the most monumental events of our century - Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars, and Independence Day. And inevitably, we are reminded that questions of Jewish identity are complex. Who has the right to call himself a Jew? Should we go as far as to say that a Christian born to Jewish parents is Jewish regardless of his or her own commitments?

Our Torah portion of *Emor* deals mainly with the priesthood, emphasizing the fact that priests - responsible for the preservation of Jewish life and community - are forbidden from all contact with the dead. However, when it comes to

the priest's own parents, such contact is permitted.

What makes this passage strange is that the Torah explicitly forbids an individual who becomes a *nazir* (one who vows not to cut his hair, drink wine or come into contact with the dead) from defiling himself for anyone (Num. 6:7). Given that the sanctity of the *nazir* is more lenient than that of the priest since it is only temporary, logic would dictate that if the *nazir* is forbidden from contact with his dead parents, the priest certainly ought to be similarly forbidden.

The Sochaczower Rebbe (Rabbi Avraham Bornstein, 1839-1910) answers that the key lies in the respective sources of sanctity. The *nazir* derives his sanctity from a vow which he chose to make; the priest, on the other hand, achieved his sanctity by virtue of his birth. Since the priest's sanctity comes as a result of his parents, there can be no limits placed on the respect he accords them.

What is true of the priest is true for all of Israel. Just as the sanctity of the priest derives from his parents, our Jewishness stems from the fact that we were born from Jewish mothers, are descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Rachel, and are, Rebecca, Leah and Rachel, and are continuing the golden chain which is based upon a lifestyle transmitted from parent to child since

Sinai.

Our Sages teach that "Jews by choice" become metaphysical descendants of the patriarchs and matriarchs, literally "born again" at the time of their conversion.

Several years back, coinciding with Holocaust Remembrance Day, Tel Aviv University invited Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger - an individual who was saved from Auschwitz at the age of 14 by the Catholic Church - to address an international conference on "The Silence of God during the Holocaust." One of the most outspoken critics of the choice of speaker was the chief rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, who argued that it was the height of insensitivity to invite a Jewish apostate to address a conference on Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The chief rabbi was not condemning the cardinal per se. No one has the right to judge a *shenishbha* (a child held captive), and even the most stringent view would not hold him culpable for having joined the Church to survive, or in gratitude for his rescue.

But the state of Israel is rooted in symbolism, and selecting a Christian cleric - even one born to Jewish parents - as a spokesman for the Holocaust was seen by many Jews as sacrilegious and even blasphemous to the memory of the six million martyrs.

Cardinal Lustiger accepted the invitation with alacrity. "It is a fit privilege for me to speak in Israel on Yom HaShoah. After all, virtually my entire family perished in the Holocaust, and I consider myself no less a Jew than my parents and grandparents," he declared in a television interview.

The response to - and antithesis of - the cardinal is Reb Moshe Haim Tiefenbrum, one of my most beloved congregants. He too is a Holocaust survivor, but his story is very different from the cardinal's.

With the outbreak of war, he thought he was protecting his family by sending them to a small town in Galicia, Poland.

Attempting to escape conscription, he himself then fled to Shanghai.

At the end of the war, Reb Moshe Haim received a telegram from a cousin in Palestine reporting that the entire family was alive. Bursting with gratitude, Reb Moshe Haim prepared a lavish kiddush for all his friends.

Less than a month later, he was called in by the rabbi, who had just received official notification that the entire Tiefenbrum family had actually perished; the cousin had emerged from the camps mentally deranged.

When Reb Moshe Haim left the rabbi, the disappointment, frustration and anger he felt was beyond tears. He believed he could never

smile again, never pray again. If this is what could happen in God's world, he told himself, then there is no Judge and there is no judgment.

He removed his kippa and threw it to the ground.

But then he took two steps backwards. After all, he wondered, where was his father's kippa when they killed him? And so he came to ask himself the most fateful question of his life: what value was there to the lives of his parents and grandparents if he now threw away everything they believed in and died for?

With tears coursing down his cheeks, he kissed the fallen kippa and replaced it on his head. He understood that, if for no other reason than to affirm the value of the lives and ideals of his ancestors, he must continue to live as a totally religious Jew.

I can personally testify to the commitment of Reb Moshe Haim, and he has been privileged, with his wonderful wife Deborah, to support many synagogues and Torah institutions while raising a family that would have made his parents and grandparents proud.

When all is said and done, Reb Moshe Haim Tiefenbrum represents the sanctity of Israel in its most profound sense.

See GIVE, Page 18

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The dove in the flock of hawks

Despite his liberal views, NRP MK Avraham Stern was popular even among right-wingers, writes Dan Izenberg

Kibbutz Ein Hanatziv is an unpretentious-looking kibbutz situated in the Jordan Valley just south of Beit She'an. Its buildings are simple, one-story, beige-colored structures, the dining hall is nondescript and the grass lawns that alternate with the rows of housing are manicured.

For 44 years, Ein Hanatziv was the home of Avraham Stern, the National Religious Party (NRP) MK who died earlier this week of cancer at age 62. Stern, who was born and raised in the Haifa area, was a member of the first local Bnei Akiva group, called Garin Gullim, to settle on a kibbutz.

His close friend for 35 years, Tali Rothschild, said this week that "if there is something called national religious Zionism, Avraham Stern personified it. He belonged to the youth movement, he fulfilled the goal of the movement by settling on a kibbutz and he worked on behalf of pluralism and the bringing together of Jews of different opinions."

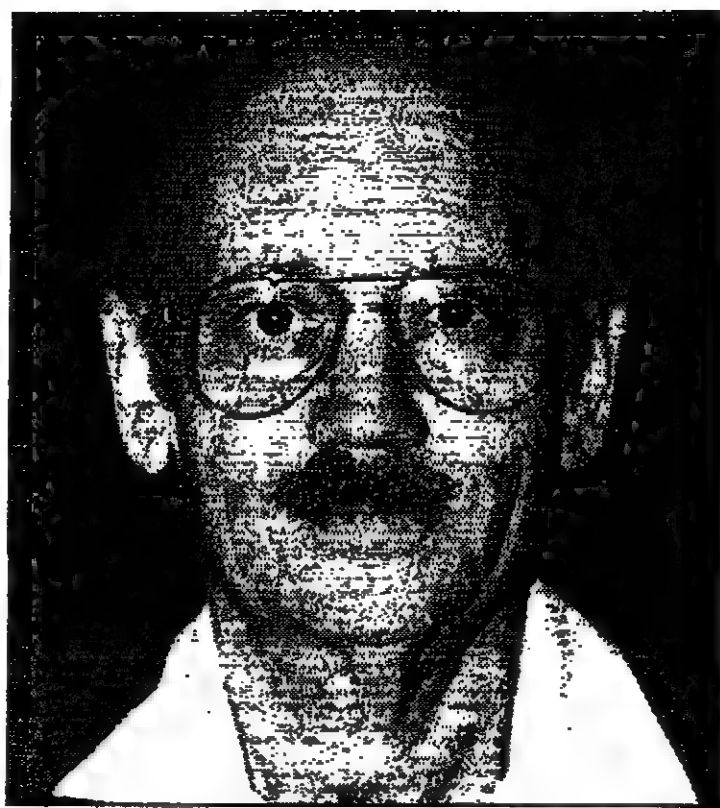
From profiles of him drawn by friends and family, it seems that Stern was at one with the modesty and simplicity of his environment and that this, in turn, was the secret of his success as a leader of his kibbutz, the religious kibbutz movement - Hakibbutz Hadati - and the NRP, which he represented

in the Knesset for the past 10 months.

"He wasn't the least bit pretentious," said his son, Shai, 31, the day after the funeral. "He drove a simple car and didn't own a mobile phone until he was elected to the Knesset. Whenever he needed to buy the smallest item, like a suit, he would always ask the kibbutz for permission."

Last year, Stern ran in the NRP primaries as an independent, with some help from Hakibbutz Hadati, and wound up in eighth place - high enough to win him a parliamentary seat. In the NRP primaries, each central committee member selects seven names from the list of candidates and ranks them from one to seven. No. 1 in each list receives 10 points, while No. 7 receives four points. Only 30 of the 1,050 central committee members represented Hakibbutz Hadati.

"My father checked the statistics afterwards," said Shai. "Dad wasn't the representative of a faction or head of an interest group, but he won more seventh place votes than anyone else. He received them because of his personal charm and ability to get along with others. Even the delegates from Hebron gave him seventh place though they were certain [Labor Party leader Shimon] Peres would



Avraham Stern: Friends called him a mentsch. (Ephraim Kilshout)

win the election, and Stern would try to drag the faction into his government.

His primary victory was surprising not only because he lacked a power base. He was also a moderate in an increasingly hawkish party which had, over the years, moved from its long-standing political alliance with the Labor movement to a position to the right of the Likud.

His views often conflicted with those of the party hawks, headed

by MK Hanan Porat. The two clashed publicly after Stern declared that he did not rule out the possibility of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza under certain conditions.

When national religious rabbis called on soldiers to disobey orders to dismantle settlements and army bases in the territories, Stern insisted that the party explicitly declare that soldiers must obey orders. He opposed the establishment of an NRP "council of sages"

which, like the ones in Shas and Agudat Yisrael, would instruct parliamentary legislators as to how they should vote.

In the controversy that broke out after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin over whether the national religious movement bore any responsibility for Yigal Amir, Stern said: "Granted, Amir is a killer and as such, is undoubtedly mentally disturbed. But we cannot claim he does not belong to us. He grew up in our midst. Bar-Ilan is the university of the national religious community, and we have reason to be worried. One worm can cause an entire heap of apples to rot."

DESPITE these views, Stern had excellent relations with Porat. Another hawk, MK Shaul Yahalom, with whom he engaged in fierce policy arguments during faction meetings, was one of his closest friends.

Although he looked and sounded like a political dove, relatively speaking, Stern liked to describe himself as being to the right of center. But when it came to religious issues, he was a flaming liberal.

Together with other Hakibbutz Hadati ideologues, including his close friend Amnon Shapira, Stern drafted a religious-secular covenant aimed at establishing rules of conduct which would assure harmony between the two communities.

Zvi Zamet, head of Yad Ben-Zvi, who included the covenant in his report to the High Court of Justice on the Rehov Bar-Ilan dispute, described the document as "very bold." According to Shapira, it included the principle that laws forcing the population to obey religious strictures must be removed from the statute books. "In the long run, people will observe the Sabbath only if they want to," said Shapira.

The moderation that characterized Stern's political and religious outlook also shaped his personal life.

"He was a mentsch," said Rothschild. "Everyone on the kibbutz came to consult with him on every conceivable matter and he would always give them good advice in total discretion." He was also famous for preserving harmony in the kibbutz, said Rothschild.

During all his years of activity outside the kibbutz, he worked three days a week as a sales representative for the kibbutz plastics factory.

His interests ranged beyond public affairs, said Rothschild. He loved the outdoors and was an avid nature photographer. He also had a huge collection of Hassidic music.

But above all, he was a family man.

Rothschild was especially impressed with the way Stern cared for his sick mother. "For 20 years, she was completely helpless," he said. "Avraham did everything for her and had to give up many things in his private life. He never complained. But he was repaid for that by his children when he became ill. They learned from his example."

During his 10 months in the Knesset, Stern was an active MK. He served as deputy NRP faction chairman, belonged to the Knesset Ethics Committee and was a member of the Knesset House and Knesset Interior committees.

He was very popular. A few months ago, he was elected to the panel for choosing rabbinical court judges even though the NRP's bitter rival, Shas, had made back-room deals with other parties.

All of this - even though Stern knew he was dying. He had been operated on before the primaries. At first the doctors thought they had removed all the malignant growths, but soon discovered they were wrong. Almost exactly one year ago, on the night of his election, the entire kibbutz came to Stern's home to toast his victory. Greeting them on the lawn outside his house, he told the well-wishers: "It's too bad it came too late."

GRAPEVINE

Ladies of the Book

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

"Do I have to make a speech?" queried Reuma Weizman when she was invited to present the Book Publishers Association of Israel's Golden Book award to sixth-generation Jerusalemite Shifra Horn, whose second book, *Four Mothers*, has sold over 20,000 copies and is still running strong.

An avid reader who takes a book with her wherever she goes, Weizman was delighted when she was told that her only duties at the ceremony were to present the award and enjoy a cup of coffee. Weizman, who read the book, which in some respects reminded her of her childhood, said that she enjoyed it enormously.



Reuma Weizman presented in Israel Golden Book award. (Photo Niy)

ALSO DOING well in the book department is Michelle Mazel, wife of Israel's ambassador to Egypt Zvi Mazel. The author in the Mazel family is currently dealing with publishers in Israel, France and Romania. Her book, *Stone Moon*, originally written in English and published in Hebrew in 1993, is soon to appear in Romanian. Her next book, *Scuds*, published in 1995, will appear in French in early 1998, and she's now working on a third novel in between cocktail receptions and other diplomatic activities. In Israel this week while her husband is attending briefings at the Foreign Ministry, Mazel is catching up with old friends and taking a break from the entertainment circuit. She and her husband hosted 1,000 guests at their Cairo residence on Independence Day, and on Pessah presided over a Seder for 165.

THE NUMBER 49 has special significance for Jerusalemites Sarah and Aharon Roth. The couple were married in New York in early 1949, arrived soon afterwards in Israel and settled into their gracious home in the capital's German Colony on May 1, 1949. A gun-runner during the War of Independence, Roth now runs trays of his wife's delicacies at the annual Independence Day get-togethers which they host in their spacious garden. This year Sarah Roth also baked a huge cake for Israel's 49th birthday, frosted it in the national colors, and had the figure 49

several children in tow - were Frank Stein, representative of the Australian Zionist Federation, giftware designer Barbara Shaw and her journalist husband David; lawyer Zvi Ehrenberg and his wife Sandy; physician Michael Goldsmith, who took time out from his busy practice and commiserated with fellow Aussie who asked why Israel couldn't emulate the far more effective and efficient Australian medical system; retired editor-writer Jack Davis and his wife Betty; dentist Steven Sattler, tour guide Moshe Oberman, whose great claim to fame is riding on the roof of the Masada cable car, and clothing manufacturer Warren Fisher.

IT'S BECOME the norm at concerts and lectures to ask members of the audience to turn off their mobile phones and beepers. Religious philosopher Rabbi Mordechai Gafni was at the zenith of a making an important point when his train of thought was disrupted by the phone. It happened to be his.

AN EX-HUSBAND may be nothing more than that until another woman catches sight of him. Elizabeth Taylor used to be quite friendly with television interviewer Barbara Walters until Walters started dating Republican Senator John Warner. Now they're not on speaking terms. Although Warner



Elizabeth Taylor isn't exactly thrilled about...



Barbara Walters dating her ex. (LPPA/Vard Peet)

prominently centered.

Close to 200 people, most of whom grew up in the US, and have lived in Israel for 30 years and upwards, attended. Some, like fellow New Yorker Harriet Weitz, have known one or other of the hosts since childhood. Also present was veteran *Time* magazine correspondent Martin Levin, who has just completed a 450-page definitive history of Hadassah to be published by Gefen. Levin, an enthusiastic photographer who was here before the founding of the state, is preparing an international traveling exhibition of his photographs of the state in the making which is scheduled to open in September at the Tower of David Museum in Jerusalem.

SMALLER THAN usual, but nonetheless a lot of fun, was the Australian Independence Day picnic at Kibbutz Kfar Etzion. Among those who did attend - many with

is one of several spouses shed by Liz, she apparently expects her friends to keep their hands off even after the marriage is over.

IF A woman over 60 becomes a first time parent, the world is agape. But if a man in his seventies becomes a first-time father, the criticism is muted and he is congratulated on his virility. Take the case of veteran actor Tony Randall, who at 77 has just premiered his dad. He likes his new role so much that he's already talking about a sequel.

AFTER SCHEDULING an appointment with her plastic surgeon for yet another improvement to her nose, Courtney Love canceled because current beau Ed Norton told her that he loved her nose just the way it is. Reconstruction has been put on hold for as long as the romance lasts.

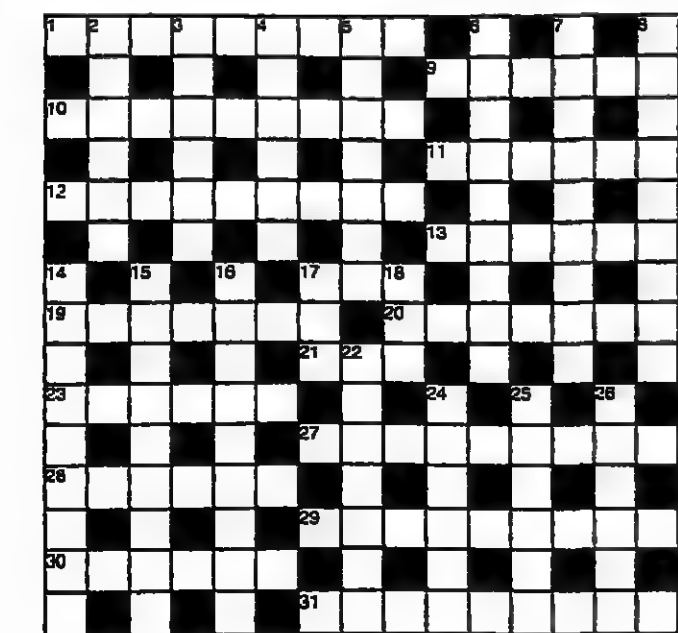
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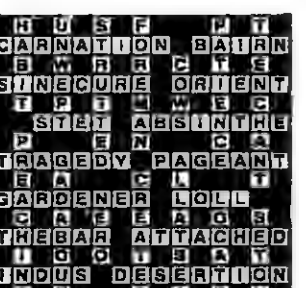
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Acknowledging young lady in a shady nightclub (9)
 - Dad gets nothing in return for material (6)
 - Change one's mind and call (4,5)
 - Light-fingered youngster (6)
 - Make fewer criticisms? Perfect! (9)
 - Companion over there has thick hair (6)
 - It carries the genetic code in reverse also (3)
 - But it's a cardiac irregularity (7)
 - News about America is clearly portrayed (2,5)
 - Deceptive young Billy (3)
 - Fodder for a prudent man about 1.50 (6)
 - Say what you will, it's the way to cook a pig! (4,2,3)
- DOWN**
- New editor created uproar (6)
 - Suddenly everyone united around Conservative assembly leader (3,2,4)
 - And not even in poetry does her name appear (6)
 - Blocks people circumscribed by dogmatic beliefs (9)
 - Overdrawn - invested in costly tree (6)
 - Models ladies' fashions (6)
 - Plunder inflicts damage (6)
 - Gave the archdeacon is playing (7)
 - Quickly finish getting furniture stripped down (6,3)



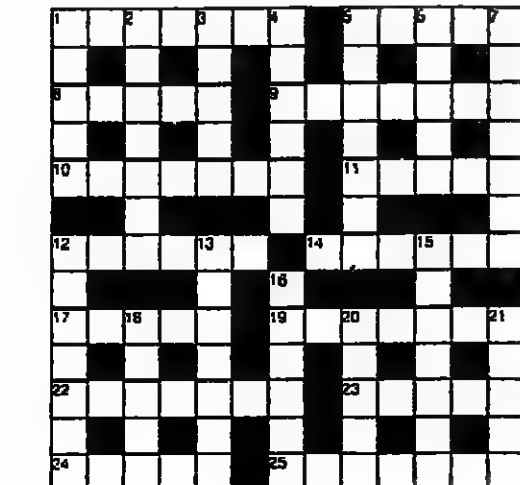
- 7 School cane may cause amusement (9)**
- 8 Government opponent and I leave a Christian assembly (9)**
- 14 Bound to support bad children (9)**
- 15 Pension for all the directors (4,5)**
- 16 Reeled around in shock (9)**
- 17 A couple of sovereigns found in animal shelter (3)**
- 18 Took action, but not irreversibly (3)**
- 22 Sudden urge to see one male heartthrob (7)**
- 24 A kid should be free from constraint (2,4)**
- 25 Carousels results in apoplexy (6)**
- 26 Calcium deposit in new wine - sweet wine (6)**

SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Firmer, 4 Meant, 8 Night, 9 Concise, 16 Solomon, 11 Knot, 12 Tie, 14 Trot, 15 Sure, 18 Fat, 21 Oral, 22 Boarder, 25 Immense, 26 Award, 27 Got up, 28 Centre.
DOWN: 1 Finish, 2 Regular, 3 Estimate, 4 Mend, 5 Alias, 6 Twenty, 7 Scent, 15 Escaped, 16 Radiant, 17 Moving, 19 Thief, 20 Trudge, 22 Admit, 24 Snip.

QUICK CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- At a greater distance (7)
 - Cooking herb (5)
 - Correct (5)
 - Tramp (7)
 - Brimstone (7)
 - Name (5)
 - Cherry-colour (6)
 - Disquiet (6)
 - New (5)
 - Crop (7)
 - Menial (7)
 - Braid (5)
 - Fragrance (5)
 - Observe (7)
- DOWN**
- Ignites (5)
 - Steady (7)
 - Rabbit coop (5)
 - Venarate (6)
 - Contract (7)
 - Fermenting agent (5)
 - Beseech (7)
 - Card-game (7)
 - Raisin (7)
 - Graceful (7)
 - Beat (6)
 - Zodiac sign (5)
 - Mature (5)
 - Private teacher (5)

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HI-TECH NEWS

By Jennifer Friedlin

Frankel okays smartcards

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frankel has accepted a committee's recommendation to approve the use of smartcards. The governor's nod signals a first step toward the release of these chip-embedded cards, which serve as an electronic wallet, replacing cash and pocket change as a medium for conducting small transactions. Industry insiders expect first trials to begin toward the end of the year.

Finjan announces new security solution

Finjan Software has introduced a new low-cost Java and ActiveX security solution designed to protect small- to medium-sized businesses accessing the Internet. The new SurfinCheck solution quickly scans Java and ActiveX applets at the gateway level to prevent loading of suspicious or hostile applets. Through SurfinCheck, security managers can control applet activities from the gateway to protect computer resources from e-mail fraud, industrial espionage, and other potential attacks.

Golan Electronics wins \$1.5m. tender

Golan Electronics, a member of the Tadiran Telecommunications Ltd. group has won a tender to supply Philtel, the cellular network operator in the Philippines, with its cellular/wireless access systems. The first stage of the project is valued at \$1.5m. The systems, which allow telecom companies to provide telephony services in regions lacking in traditional telecom infrastructure, will be installed on two islands.

IBM to OEM Check Point Firewall-1

Check Point Software Technologies, a leader in network security software, announced that IBM will OEM (original equipment manufacturer) its new Check Point Firewall-1 for its AIX enterprise security software suite. Firewall-1 for AIX will be available from IBM for its RS/6000 server family. The addition of Firewall-1 for AIX makes Check Point the only network security software vendor to support all major commercial server platforms, including Sun Solaris, HP-UX, Microsoft Windows NT and IBM AIX-based systems. Firewall-1 will be available from IBM and its authorized resellers in the third quarter of 1997 as a stand-alone software product or as part of an RS/6000 Internet POWERsolution.

IBM selects Sapiens ObjectPool for system

Sapiens International announced that IBM has chosen Sapiens ObjectPool and Sapiens consulting services to assist it in developing a major network-based solution.

IBM is using the ObjectPool to develop shipping management application components based on a rules-based development approach. The companies did not disclose the value of the purchase.

Motorola Israel plans R&D center in Jordan

In an effort to overcome the current shortage of software engineers in Israel, Motorola Israel intends to invest \$4m. in an R&D center in Jordan. Motorola Israel is presently advertising in Jordan for experts in the software development field to work at the proposed center.

Internet banking coming to Ramallah bank

InterX Technologies of Sacramento, California and Palestine International Bank of Ramallah have announced an agreement to develop an Internet banking web site. The site, www.PIBank.com, is on line and construction is under way to provide banking services by late July. Via the site, customers will be able to check balances, transfer funds and view statements. According to the president of InterX Technologies, the bank system satisfies all G-10 secure electronic payment and settlement standards.

April CPI lowest in 7 years

By DAVID HARRIS

The consumer price index (CPI) for April rose by a lower-than-expected 0.7 percent to 147.9 points, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

This is the lowest rise in the April CPI in seven years. The month is prone to accelerated retail activity due to Pessah shopping.

Government and independent economists were predicting an increase of 1% to 1.5% for the month. The annual rate of inflation for 1997 based on the first four months, where the CPI totaled 3.4%, now stands at a little over 10%. A month ago, that figure was a little short of 11%. The

government-set target for 1997 inflation is between 7% and 10%. Inflation for the past 12 months was 9.4%.

Economist Ya'acov Shenin of Economic Models told Israel Radio last night that he believes annual inflation could drop to 9% to 9.5% by December. "The lower-than-anticipated April CPI could be a readjustment from the relatively high previous two months," Shenin noted.

The major contributors to the increase in the April index were clothing and footwear, housing, education, culture and entertainment, and transport and communications. Clothing and footwear prices rose sharply by 6.2% in April, reflecting the new season in the shops. This section

of the CPI accounted for some 43% of the total increase last month.

Housing prices accounted for some 28.5% of the increase. There was a 0.6% rise in apartment sale prices and 1.3% for rental prices, due in part to the shekel's performance against the dollar.

Transportation and communications prices increased 0.5%. Tourist packages to foreign destinations and car rental were major contributors. Education, culture and entertainment became 0.9% more expensive. The cost of health care increased 1%, principally caused by rises in insurance premiums with health funds (2.6%) and charges to residential homes for retired people (1.3%).

These increases were offset by a drop in the fruit and vegetable component. Fresh vegetables cost 5.1% less than in the previous month. However, this was offset by a 4.4% increase in fruit prices.

The price of household equipment also dropped, by 0.2%.

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz expressed his surprise and satisfaction that the CPI showed a relatively low increase.

Manufacturers Association president Dan Propert said the figures point to a slowdown in the economy and that Israel is already in recession. He also predicted unemployment reaching 8% by the end of the year.

Rivlin: Oil cartel shafting Defense Ministry

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

The nation's two largest fuel companies allegedly coordinated their bids in a tender to supply the Defense Ministry with oil, a move MK Reuven Rivlin (Likud) says violates cartel laws and has cost the state some NIS 2 million.

Rivlin said he has evidence that Paz and Delek "made a deal" to supply 4,000 tons of various oils to the ministry.

"But more than the cost is the fact that they allegedly violated the laws against cartels and this is much more of an offense," Rivlin said.

Rivlin submitted a query to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai on the suspicions yesterday.

"Tenders are supposed to be secret and in the past the oil companies had to lower their prices to compete," Rivlin said. "This time, they probably decided to coordinate their bids and this is a criminal offense."

According to Rivlin, the oil supplied to the Defense Ministry over the past three years was 16 percent lower than the price awarded this year. Paz and Delek each won half of this year's contract to supply NIS 20m. in oil.

"They usually compete against each other and now it appears they split the deal for the oil," Rivlin said. "The state lost about NIS 2m."

Mordechai's office said it had received the query, was looking into it and would inform Rivlin of the results of its investigation.

Rivlin said the two companies flatly denied the allegations and even threatened legal action against him.

Delek legal adviser Yehoshua Friedgut said all the allegations "were untrue," while officials from Paz could not be reached.

Chelouche: Scitex losses 'as expected'

Embattled digital print developer posts \$7.4m. quarterly loss

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Scitex Corporation Ltd.'s first-quarter net losses of \$7.4 million, compared to net profits of \$3.3m. in the same period one year ago, were "as expected," company CEO Yoav Chelouche said yesterday.

"Although our results for the first quarter are well below what we would consider acceptable, they are an indication that the actions we took during the second half of last year are beginning to have some impact," Chelouche said.

Revenues for the quarter were down, from \$195m. in the first

quarter of 1996 to \$163m. this year.

The market responded favorably to the results, which were released in New York on Wednesday, driving the price of the Nasdaq-traded stock up 3% to close at \$7.75. The upward trend continued yesterday, with the stock trading at \$8.1875 in early morning trading.

Scitex Corporation Ltd., the embattled maker of digital printers and video equipment that was once among Israel's most successful high-tech companies, attributed its previous difficulties to changes in the marketplace. The company reported \$178.3 million in net losses in

1996, compared to \$34.5m. in 1995.

"There were major changes in the technology side and the business side [of the digital printing and graphic arts markets]," said Chelouche. "The issue is how quickly you make corrective measures."

In anticipation of poor annual results, Scitex announced a restructuring plan in the middle of 1996 that entailed reducing the company's workforce by 17%, shuffling and dismissing senior staff, and focusing on new products such as the EverSmart scanner.

The company, which said that

the deterioration in its performance was due in particular to "severe difficulties" in its graphic arts business, yesterday reported a continued drop in revenues from the group. Revenues from graphic arts fell to \$112m. in the first quarter of 1997 from \$142m. in the same period last year.

Scitex's digital video division produced revenues of \$18m. for the first quarter of 1997, a 25% increase over the same period one year ago.

Revenues for the digital printing group were down from \$38m. in the first quarter of 1996 to \$33m. this year.

Shorer warns insurers not to employ cartel culprits

By DAVID HARRIS

Supervisor of Insurance Doron Shorer this week warned the six insurance companies involved in the cartel scandal that he is considering exercising his legal right to force the resignation of those convicted of price-fixing and other crimes.

Despite their conviction in March, most of the 11 senior managers are still in their posts or have been promoted.

Shorer has received the backing of both State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat in her annual report and Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein. The latter informed Shorer that, in his opinion, the Treasury can enforce section 18 of the Supervision of Insurance Companies Law (1981) against the convicted managers.

In order to remove the executives, Shorer will have to alter the conditions required for an insurer's license. The condition he proposes is that whoever is found guilty of a crime that

would affect the trustworthiness of the insurer must step down.

The professional advisory committee to the capital markets, insurance, and savings will discuss the proposal next month. Shorer has asked the committee to put forward any comments in writing no later than June 15.

The six companies involved - Migdal, Clal Insurance, Hamagen, Sahar, Zion, and Menorah - and the Association of Insurance Companies formed an illegal cartel in 1991 and 1992.

NICE to buy Canadian firm for \$8m.

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

In a move aimed at making it a leading provider of systems used in the monitoring, logging and evaluating of telephone calls between toll-free number operators and callers, NICE Systems Ltd. of Tel Aviv signed a letter of intent to acquire Canadian-based Dees Communications. David Arzi, NICE Systems' CEO, said yesterday.

According to the agreement, NICE will purchase the privately held company for \$8 million and up to 500,000 ordinary shares of NICE.

Arzi said that the decision to buy

Dees reflects NICE's aggressive approach to gaining a foothold in the fast-growing, \$1 billion call-center logging and monitoring market.

"The call-center market is just starting to pick up and the point is to position yourself in order to become one of the leaders in the market," he said.

The acquisition will help NICE Systems, which currently develops logging and management solutions for voice, fax and data, further penetrate the monitoring market, the company said. Dees Communications, a Nortel Premier Business Affiliate, manufactures monitoring solutions that are used to evaluate agent performance.

In addition, the acquisition will provide NICE Systems with well-established North American-based marketing channels, analysts said.

"Dees has a good marketing and sales network in North America and this means [NICE] has ready-to-go marketing channels," said Aaron Katzman of the Comstock Trading Company.

In 1996, NICE Systems' annual revenues totaled \$39.5m., compared to \$21m. in the previous year. Forty-three percent of the company's sales last year were in North America, rising to 49% in the first quarter of 1997.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patash (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)				
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.875	2.125	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000	
Yen (10 million yen)				

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (15.5.97)

CURRENCY BASKET	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rpt. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.5877	3.7269	—	—	3.7020
U.S. dollar	3.3608	3.4152	3.30	3.47	3.3820
German mark	1.9887	2.0208	1.95	2.05	2.0075
Pound sterling	5.5270	5.6182	5.42	5.70	5.5707
French franc	0.5902	0.5995	0.58	0.61	0.5961
Japanese yen (100)	2.9036	2.9505	2.85	3.00	2.9371
Dutch guilder	1.7888	1.7974	1.73	1.83	1.7855
Swiss franc	2.3527	2.3907	2.31	2.43	2.3775
Swedish krona	0.4441	0.4513	0.43	0.46	0.4486
Norwegian krone	0.4810	0.4885	0.47	0.50	0.4840
Danish krone	0.5221	0.5306	0.51	0.54	0.5271
Finnish mark	0.6590	0.6687	0.64	0.68	0.6640
Canadian dollar	2.4210	2.4801	2.37	2.50	2.4490
Australian dollar	2.6100	2.6521	2.56	2.69	2.6341
S. African rand	0.7489	0.7610	0.67	0.77	0.7357
Belgian franc (10)	0.5827	0.5973	0.54	1.00	0.5726
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8558	2.9174	2.77	2.92	2.8625
Italian lira (1000)	2.0158	2.0484	1.98	2.06	2.0347
Jordanian dinar	4.7404	4.8169	4.68	5.00	4.8169
Egyptian pound	0.9500	1.0400	0.96	1.04	1.0515
ECU	3.8782	3.9388	—	—	3.9186
Irish punt	5.1522	5.2354	5.05	5.31	5.2030
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3514	2.3924	2.31	2.43	2.3777

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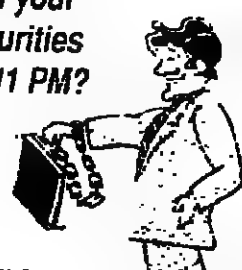
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2 ROOMS, FULLY equipped and furnished, luxurious, short-term. Tel. 02-534-2183.

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DWELLINGS

Jerusalem Area

OLD KATAMON: LUXURIOUS, 5 room duplex, wonderful museum view, terraces, long term, \$2000. 7 room huge garden cottage, \$1800. EVA AVIAD REALTY. Tel. 02-561-8404, 052-601-594.

RAMAT SHARIT: LONG term, 3 + garden, private garden, possible furnished, \$1200. Tel. 052-252263.

REHAVIA STUDIO: 3-4, furnished, New Air conditioned. Parking. Also short term. REHAVIA REALTY. Tel. 02-561-9519, 040.

REHAVIA, 3, 2ND floor, renovated, furnished, air conditioned. \$820. Tel. 02-561-9575.

REHAVIA, 4, LARGE, quiet, fully furnished, private heating, balconies. Tel. 02-561-0055.

REHAVIA, NEW GREAT Synagogue, 3.5, renovated, fully furnished. Tel. 02-566-9332, (W) 02-555-2562.

REHAVIA: 4 ROOMS, fully furnished, available immediately. GANET DAVID. Tel. 02-551-1451, 052-521-603.

TALBIEH, 3, 1ST floor, furnished, June 1 Tel. 02-653-6108.

TOWN CENTER, BIG bright, beautiful, patio view, fully furnished, \$1000. Tel. 02-564-5061.

VILLA, MOSHAV, 18 minutes Jerusalem, fully equipped, 3 bedrooms, 2 balconies, large garden, amazing view. From June 1 Tel. 02-534-1979.

SALES

ARZI HABIRA

3.5, 105 sq.m., view, closets, Succah balcony, heating. Tel. 02-582-5098.

BAKA: 6 SPACIOUS, stylish, huge garden, private entrance, Y.A.C. Tel. 02-563-1784.

BAKA, PASTORAL SIDE-STREET, new building, 4, 1st floor, southern, exclusive to AVI KOREN LTD. Tel. 02-671-9740.

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MUST SELL - KIRYAT SHMUEL, 3.5, excellent condition, view, \$218,000. ANGLO-SAXON. Tel. 02-625-1181.

NEAR JERUSALEM THEATER, 3 + small office, 1st floor, terrace, Jerusalem stone wood burning stove, solar boiler, quiet. Tel. 02-561-7654 (NS).

RAMOT, VILLA, 8, new, view, garden, immediate, \$590,000. ANGLO-SAXON. Tel. 02-625-1181.

RICHIE MEVASSERET- COTTAGES, 6 with large garden. MISHAB, Tel. 02-625-4181.

TALBIEH, LUXURIOUS PENTHOUSE, 5, terraces, view, parking, \$1,050,000. ANGLO-SAXON REALTY. E-mail: Anglosax@netvision.net.il. 2 Hahoreg St., Jerusalem.

2.5 ROOMS, RECHOV SHAMMAL, Elevator, light, no agent. Immediate. \$165,000. Tel. 050-393-464. ers

4, 115 SQ.M., large living room, exit to garden, parking, storeroom, \$400,000, no agents. Tel. 02-566-9612 (NS).

ABU TOR, 5.5, BALCONIES, 200 m., view, KING DAVID DWELLINGS. Tel. 02-642-6383, Sigal (Real Estate Office).

ABU TOR, 7, (one level), renovated, panoramic view to Promenade, 1st floor, terrace, \$599,000. Shiran exclusive through ANGLO SAXON. Tel. 02-625-1181.

AMBASSADOR, 02-561-5101, TALBIEH, 5, large beautifully renovated, magnificent view of Old City, Elevator.

ARZAT HABIRA, 3.5, 105 sq.m., view, closets, succah balcony, heating. Tel. 02-582-5098.

BAKA, 5 + BASEMENT, garden, covered parking, move-in conditions, exclusive, CORINNE DAVAR. Tel. 02-673-3385.

BAKA, PASTORAL SIDE-STREET, new building, 4, 1st floor, southern, exclusive to AVI KOREN LTD. Tel. 02-671-9740.

BAKA: 6 SPACIOUS, stylish, huge garden, private entrance, Y.A.C. Tel. 02-563-1784.

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BAKA, PASTORAL SIDE-STREET, new building, 4, 1st floor, southern, exclusive to AVI KOREN LTD. Tel. 02-671-9740.

BARGAIN! OLD TALPIOT (Erez), 3, 1st floor, balconies. Must sell. \$210,000. Exclusive to AVI KOREN LTD. Tel. 02-671-9740. ers

BAYIT VEGAN (Uziel), 3, 3rd floor, panoramic view, private roof, terrace, parking, Shiran exclusive through ALEX LOSKY REALTY. Tel. 02-623-5595, Fax 02-623-8419.

BAYIT VEGAN, 4 room apartment, 4th floor, spacious, view, balconies, double conveniences. Tel. 02-641-8690.

BAYIT VEGAN- RELIGIOUS, 3, 4 rooms + porch and/or garden. MISHAB, Tel. 02-625-4181.

BEIT HAKEREM, 4, roomy, elegantly renovated, of highest standard, succah balcony, convenient floor, AMBASSADOR. Tel. 02-561-8101.

BEN ZVI REALTY - for sale! Penthouse in Rehavia, 5.5, 2 levels + elevator + parking. Penthouse in Old Katamon, 5 + terrace + parking + private elevator + storage (like room). Tel. 02-563-1664, 02-563-006.

CAPITAL, 02-673-4911, GERMAN COLONY, huge old building for renovation, quiet land, suitable for one or two families.

CAPITAL 02-673-4911, OLD Katamon, 4, 1st floor, Succah balcony, storeroom, private heating + covered parking.

CAPITAL 02-673-4911, GLOSE Hapalmach, 3.5, second floor, modernized, full of light, quiet.

CAPITAL 02-673-4911, REHAVIA, Sadia Gaon, luxurious, 180 sq. m. panoramic view, huge balcony.

CASPI STREET, FOR discerning people acquire, outstanding opportunity to acquire superbly designed luxury apartment. Breath-taking view, swimming pool, landscaped garden. CORINNE DAVAR. Tel. 02-673-3385.

CASPI STREET, PANORAMIC Old City view, 180 sqm, sunny duplex, huge roof garden, exclusive CORINNE DAVAR. Tel. 02-673-3385.

COTTAGE BY HYATT, instead of \$650,000, only \$500,000. No realtors. Tel. 050-552-087.

GERMAN COLONY, 5.5, spacious, excellent location, all amenities. Exclusive GROSS REALTY. Tel. 02-994-3807.

GERMAN COLONY, LUXURY 5 room penthouse, terrace, view, covered parking, CORINNE DAVAR. Tel. 02-673-3385.

GERMAN COLONY: FOUR LARGE, tasteful rooms, priced to sell, excellent building, 3rd floor, balcony, private storage, parking, Shiran exclusive through Alex Losky. Tel. 02-623-5595.

GERMAN COLONY, LARGE, unique 2.3 or 4. Basement, garden, immediate (no commissions). DIVIROLI SIANI. Tel. 02-561-2424.

GIVAT CANADA, SUPERB VIEW, huge terrace, 4 + building rights, \$355,000. Exclusive CORINNE DAVAR. Tel. 02-673-3385.

GIVAT ORANIM, EXCELLENT location, quiet street, 4.5, convenient floor. Exclusive to AMBASSADOR. Tel. 02-561-8101.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY, GERMAN Colony, 3, elevator, 3 balconies, quiet, central, only \$239,000. GESHER PROPERTIES. Tel. 02-566-5671.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY, GERMAN Colony, 3, elevator, 3 balconies, quiet, central, only \$239,000. GESHER PROPERTIES. Tel. 02-566-5671.

HABITAT REAL ESTATE - King David Court, 3 rooms, 2nd floor, elevator, pool. Tel. 02-561-1222, Ehud.

HABITAT REAL ESTATE - Nahla, 3 + option for additional 2, patio, garden, bright. Tel. 02-561-1222, Shul.

HABITAT REAL ESTATE - Old Katamon, 6 rooms, garden, private entrance, quiet. Tel. 02-561-1222, Dafna.

HABITAT REAL ESTATE - Noyot, 4 rooms, renovated, easy access, immediate. Tel. 02-561-1222, Dafna.

HABITAT REAL ESTATE - Rehavia, (Wolfsom), 4 rooms, spectacular view, large. Tel. 02-561-1222, Dafna.

HABITAT REAL ESTATE - selection of family homes in good areas. Tel. 02-561-1222, Channa.

HABITAT REAL ESTATE - Ramat Dena, 3 rooms, furnished, \$500. Yehudi Moshe, 2 rooms, garden, \$1000. Tel. 02-561-1222, Dafna.

HABITAT REAL ESTATE - Givat Mordechai, 2.5 rooms, ground floor, building rights. Needs work. Channa. Tel. 02-561-1222.

HAR NOF - 5, sunny, beautiful kitchen, gorgeous view, affordable, KATHY ROSENBERG BROKERS. Tel. 02-661-9616.

HAR NOF, PENTHOUSE, 5, well kept, southern, exposures, open view. Tel. 02-561-8375.

HAR NOF, VILLA, large, comfortable for 4-5, 2 rooms, garden. Tel. 02-651-2598 (NS).

HAR NOF, LUXURIOUS, 5 + dining room. Designer kitchen, PEARL SKOLNIK REALTY. Tel. 02-588-5682.

JEWISH QUARTER, SELECTION of fine homes, \$250,000 - \$1,500,000. M. REALTY. Tel. 02-628-6621, 07-627-0011.

JEWISH QUARTER, CHARMING, 4 rooms, domed ceilings, bright, \$360,000, exclusive M. REALTY. Tel. 02-628-6621.

JEWISH QUARTER, SPECIAL cottage with balcony, bargain, only \$339,000. MISHKANOT KING DAVID. Tel. 02-642-6383 (Eldad).

KIRYAT SHMUEL, 4, quiet and spacious + terrace + panoramic view to Knesset + balconies + elevator and parking. Tel. 02-563-0066, 02-563-1664.

KIRYAT SHMUEL: BARGAIN! Priced to sell! Four large rooms, large porch (room), private storage, parking, second floor GAVY, 3 bedrooms, Shiran exclusive through Alex Losky. Tel. 02-623-5595.

LEV HAPARK, GILG - brand new flat with fabulous view of Jerusalem 3 rooms + 2 a/c rooms, 2 balconies, lift, ready in 2 months. Tel. 02-6762267, or 052-681-578, Rafi.

LEV REHAVIA: BEAUTIFUL, 4, new, luxurious, swimming pool, covered parking, T.A.C. Tel. 02-563-1784.

LUXURIOUS GERMAN COLONY, Temper style villa, 9.5, high ceilings, yard, cistern, well kept. Shiran exclusive through ANGLO SAXON. Tel. 02-625-1181.

Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock. Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110.

The National Police Control Center at Ramat Hospital, phone 04-852-8205 for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Em - Emotional First Aid - 1201, also Jerusalem 561-0303, Tel Aviv 546-1111 (children/youth 546-0739), Rishon LeZion 956-86612, Haifa 867-2222, Beersheba 649-4333, Netanya 862-5110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kfar Sava 767-4555, Hadera 834-6788.

Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-6558, Haifa 833-0533, Eilat 633-1977.

Crisis Center for Religious Women 02-655-7445, 24-hour service, confidentiality guaranteed.

Emergency line for women in distress Sunday-Thursday 24 hrs. a day; Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 08-950-6720.

Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-546-1133 (also in Russian), 07-637-6310, 08-855-0506 (also in Amharic).

Kupat Holim Information Center 177-022-1906, Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hadassah/Jerusalem Municipal Health Center for Adolescents, 6 Chlo St., Kiryat Hayovel, Jim. Advice by phone 02-643-3882.

Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association telephone support service 02-624-7878.

Ashtad 0551333 Kfar Sava 9802222 Ashdod 0551332 Nahariya 9912333 Beersheba 0274677 Netanya 9604444 Beit Shimon 6520139 P. Tiba 9011111 Beit Shimon 5793333 Rehovot 9451333 Dan Region 6332444 Rishon 9425333

Ashtad 0551333 Kfar Sava 9802222 Ashdod 0551332 Nahariya 9912333 Beersheba 0274677 Netanya 9604444 Beit Shimon 6

NEWS

in brief

Joint transport talks in Amman

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy was to meet in Amman last night with his Jordanian counterpart, Bassam Shakhat, for talks on bilateral issues, including the construction of a joint airport at Akaba, the transshipment of goods at the Jordan River crossings, and crossing fees. Levy is expected to propose widening the Allenby Bridge and adding an additional Bailey bridge to handle the ever-increasing traffic between the two countries.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Yaffa Deri: Aryeh married me for money

Yaffa Deri was cross-examined yesterday on the second day of testimony on behalf of her husband, Aryeh, on trial for fraud and bribery. Prosecutor Efrat Barzilai focused on whether she had received any promise from her adoptive parents, the Werdebers, to provide the Deris with what is known in haredi circles as "the full arrangement," meaning the purchase and furnishing of an apartment.

Barzilai suggested there had been no such arrangement, but the witness demurred. "Why would Aryeh have agreed to marry me, if there wasn't an arrangement?" Deri replied. "He had some good offers."

Itim

American warship in Eilat

The American warship USS Nicholson calls in Eilat today, making it the first time a US Navy vessel has ever docked in the port. The Nicholson is on its way home after a six-month tour of duty in the Arabian Gulf enforcing a UN-imposed blockade on Iraq. Home to 27 officers and 306 enlisted sailors, the 171-meter long destroyer is one of the most heavily armed vessels in the US Navy, equipped with sophisticated attack and defense warfare systems. US officials said the warship will be open for public tours tomorrow by reservation, which can be made through the USO in Haifa at 04-838-2057 or in Eilat at 07-638-2222.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Israel sends flour to Albania

Israel has sent 30 tons of flour to Albania, to help alleviate the hunger there, the Israeli Embassy in Rome announced yesterday. The flour was turned over to UN representatives.

"This humanitarian aid is a gesture of solidarity with the Albanian people and demonstrates the close relationship between the two peoples, which was expressed during World War II, when the Albanians saved all Albanian Jews from Nazi persecution."

Itim

Batsheva Dance head resigns

Mira Idelis announced her resignation yesterday as general manager of the Batsheva Dance Company, citing irreconcilable personal and professional differences with Batsheva artistic director Ohad Naharin.

Batsheva's board of governors announced that it had reluctantly accepted Idelis's decision, and that Naharin's contract, due to expire next July, had been extended through July 2000.

Idelis, who has been with the company 21 years, became general manager eight years ago, steering Batsheva to financial stability and a solid international reputation. Her resignation takes effect July 1.

Helen Kaye

New rector at Haifa University

Prof. Gad Gilbar was named rector of Haifa University yesterday by the university senate. He replaces Prof. Mordechai Shechter.

Gilbar, of the history faculty, was born in Haifa in 1944. He earned degrees in Islamic history and economics from the Hebrew University, and his PhD from London University.

He joined the Middle Eastern history department at Haifa University in 1968, and worked his way up to heading the department. Gilbar has also recently advised the Foreign Ministry on regional economic issues, and has published numerous research papers.

Itim

Bar-Ilan to give honorary doctorate to Havel

Czech President Vaclav Havel, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky and former deputy Supreme Court president justice Menachem Elon are to be among the recipients of honorary doctorates from Bar-Ilan University.

The three will be honored at the upcoming meetings of the school's Global Board of Trustees. Havel will receive his degree in Prague on June 20, where the board will be visiting.

Sharansky and Elon will receive theirs on campus on June 16. Earlier this week, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel received the Guardian of Zion award from the school's Ingeborg Rennett Center for Jerusalem Studies.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Geula Amir petitions court to indict Raviv

By URIEL HEILMAN

Geula Amir, mother of assassin Yigal Amir, submitted a petition to the High Court of Justice yesterday seeking the indictment of Avishai Raviv, an informer for the General Security Service, for his allegedly illegal activities between 1988 and 1995. She claims that some of his activities during that period led directly to the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Raviv helped found and then lead the militant right-wing Eyal organization and later Harev David, created to operate secretly against Arabs and Jewish leftists. In her petition, Amir cites testimony implicating Raviv for inciting Rabin's murder, violent attacks against Arabs and leaving Israel, and the "elimination" of right-wing leaders Raviv deemed soft in their opposition to the peace process.

NE'EMAN

Continued from Page 1

Eitan, who is attending a conference in China, told Army Radio there should be an investigation into the reason the courts had rejected so many indictments filed by the state attorney and attorney-general. "Maybe something isn't right there," he said.

He also blasted Ben-Yair, stating: "There's nothing more to say about Ben-Yair, his greed, his behavior, the way he canceled certain charges [against the Left]."

Ben-Yair did not respond to the accusation or to the attacks on him. Labor faction chairman Ra'an Cohen congratulated Ne'eman, but called on the prime minister to follow Ne'eman into the court-

house to stand trial and clear the blemish that hangs over his name. If not, the stain will remain forever."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said: "Despite my joy at Ne'eman's acquittal, it is not fitting that he return to the Justice Ministry. He can return to the government, but not necessarily to this important and sensitive ministry. People don't remember, but long before his indictment, and completely unrelated to it, he spoke ill of the ministry staff [and] the staff of the State Attorney's Office, who are dedicated people who do their job well."

Eizenstat reports to congressional committee on post-war restitution:

Review handling of assets

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — The US must reevaluate how it dealt with the heirless assets of Nazi victims in American banks, Undersecretary of State-designate Stuart Eizenstat told a congressional committee yesterday in a wide-ranging review of post-war restitution.

Of the \$3 billion sought as compensation for heirless assets held in the US, Jewish organizations received only \$500,000 after the war, said Eizenstat, who last week released an extensive report of Nazi loot. He called for a review of the discrepancy between the amount sought and what the US

actually paid.

The Eizenstat report, conducted by 11 federal agencies, concluded that the neutral states prolonged the war by assisting the Third Reich, that the neutrals failed to turn over to the Allies all the Nazi loot, and that Nazi victims were subsequently harmed by the "indifference on the part of neutrals and inaction on the part of the Allies."

Yesterday's hearing was called by Senate Banking Committee chairman, Alfonse D'Amato of New York, to review the Eizenstat report. It was the fifth session on Swiss-Nazi ties convened by a congressional committee since April 1996.

Switzerland and Sweden testified at yesterday's hearing. Two other neutrals who were criticized in the report, Spain and Portugal, declined, D'Amato said.

Thomas Borer, a Swiss Foreign Ministry envoy, complained yesterday that Switzerland was treated as an "international outcast" despite its efforts to make amends for accepting looted gold from Nazi Germany.

"I am sorry that these endeavors have, as of yet, found little recognition and acknowledgment in the United States," Borer said, in remarks prepared for yesterday's hearing. "The Swiss, old and young alike ... are perplexed and wonder why, in spite of these

efforts, they continue to be treated as an international outcast."

D'Amato has suggested that a 1946 Swiss-Allied treaty, the Washington Agreement, be renegotiated because the Swiss failed to turn over all the looted gold. Bern opposes that idea, saying that the pact is legal and binding.

"The Washington Accord was negotiated, ratified, and implemented with full knowledge of the relevant facts by all the parties," Borer said. "At no time was Switzerland in a position to deceive the US."

Eizenstat also deflected discussion of the 1946 treaty, saying, "While we exclude no option, we favor a broader approach."



Rehov Bar-Ilan rabbis apologize

A delegation of rabbis from the area of Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan met yesterday with President Ezer Weizman to apologize for attacks on policemen on the street during the siren on Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars last Saturday night. "We felt a need to make a public apology on behalf of haredim for the incidents," said Rehov Bar-Ilan activist Dudi Zilberschlag. The Eida Haredit umbrella group had pushed for the meeting with Weizman and was to send representatives to the meeting, but they did not attend.

(Brian Hinder)

Four killed on roads

By DAVID RUDGE and Itim

Four people were killed in separate accidents around the country yesterday.

A motorcyclist was killed in Nazareth, two years after a crash in which his wife was killed and her parents injured.

Police said Tibor Levkovitz, 50, of Upper Nazareth, swerved out of his lane and crashed into an oncoming vehicle. The accident occurred in the morning, on a road between Nazareth's garages area and a nearby quarry.

Levkovitz, who taught car mechanics at a school in Afula, was pronounced dead at the scene by a Magen David Adom doctor.

A Rehovot man was killed yesterday when for unknown reasons, he crashed into a parked car, swerved back to the right and hit another car and was then hit by another car. Erez Hamari, 50, was declared dead at Rehovot's Kaplan Hospital. Police said Hamari may have suffered a sudden physical failure, and have asked the family to approve a request for an autopsy.

A 30-year-old pedestrian was killed last night after being hit by a car on the Ayalon Highway in Tel Aviv.

In another accident yesterday, a motorcyclist was killed when he hit a tree in Zichron Ya'acov, police reported.

Eleven people were killed in accidents in the last week, bringing the 1997 death toll on the roads to 151.

JDC working to help Polish Jewish community grow

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Israelis may think of the Polish Jewish community as dead or dying, but two American Joint Distribution Committee workers insist it's alive and thriving, building firm foundations for tomorrow on the ruins of the past.

"We Israelis don't know very much about Jewish life in Poland today," said Yossi Erez, a Polish-based consultant on Jewish education and culture. "Until now, we thought that there was nothing there but cemeteries and concentration camps. But [the Jewish community in] Poland is something else today. You have Jewish life, you have Jewish newspapers, organizations. Something new is happening in Jewish life there."

"Until a few years ago, when I thought about Poland from a Jewish point of view, I did not know that there was a community still existing there," said Manlio Dell'Arciccia, who also works in Poland for the Joint. "I knew there were Holocaust survivors, but I thought once they disappeared, the rest of the community would, too. The reality is different."

Estimates on the number of Jews there vary. Dell'Arciccia said, but the best estimate is between 8-15,000. There have been estimates of up to 250,000, the result of a recent increase in the number of Poles who have suddenly discovered they have Jewish blood.

"With the end of the Communist regime and the return to democracy, we are witnessing the phenomenon of more and more people — middle-aged and young people — suddenly discovering their Jewish identity," he explained. Some find out

after a family member dies, and they go through their personal papers.

"This is something that happened spontaneously — no one was pushing these people, but rather they approached Jewish organizations and told them: 'I'm Jewish.' There is no advantage for these people in saying they are Jewish; I would say the opposite. So this makes the phenomenon even more interesting, and creates a need for Jewish organizations to provide these people with answers."

Besides its traditional welfare work, which the Joint has been performing in Poland for some 80 years, it now has a new challenge: meeting the needs of an emerging community.

The Joint has been doing more cultural, educational and community work in Poland in the past four years, especially among students.

"Two years ago, there weren't any Jewish student organizations. Now we have 150 students involved. In 1989, there were only two Jewish organizations; now there are eight," Erez said proudly.

"There are three Jewish newspapers nationwide, centered in Warsaw. There is a group for children of survivors, one for 'hidden Jews.' The summer camp outside Warsaw started with 20 kids, but this past summer we had 100. And in the seminar where we train young leaders for the Jewish community, we once had 12. Now we have more than 40."

The Joint workers make materials on Judaism and Israel available in a pedagogic center set up in Warsaw, and send materials to outlying communities. The seminar training future

Jewish community leaders also sends its participants to Israel for a special session in July after a year of training.

The traditional welfare work is also continuing, with a canteen providing kosher meals for the poor and elderly, and a planned day center for the elderly in Cracow.

The Polish government is largely supportive of these efforts. Dell'Arciccia said, adding that recent legislation to allow the Jewish communities to recover some property lost during the Holocaust only underscores this attitude. Poland is also the only country in the world with a special ambassador to the Jewish Diaspora.

Asked whether this attitude is sincere or just a ploy to gain foreign investment, he said: "I don't have an answer. It could be a little of both, but I think they have a genuine interest in this."

Dell'Arciccia, who has worked with different Jewish groups around the world, likes to compare these experiences with Jewish holidays. His experience with the Ethiopian Jews he compares to Pessah, he says. The situation in Poland reminds him of Hanukkah.

"There the Jews' enemies tried to destroy them physically and culturally, and Judah Maccabi resisted, and there was the miracle of the small amount of oil that lasted for eight days. It's the same in Poland. The Nazis tried to destroy the Jewish people physically in the Holocaust, then the Communists tried to do it spiritually. Now what we are seeing is this small group that is left, this small light, is enough to create new Jewish life in many places in Poland."

GIVE

Continued from Page 11

Aust\$100 in memory of the seven schoolgirls from Beit She'an — Myron and Jeff Rogers, Australia.
£50 in honor of the birth, to Diana and Izak, of Avinoam Eliasi, our 10th grandchild — Sabra and Sava Maurice.
New Progress
Donations
NIS 1,000 NIS 40,552
\$985 \$13,624.40
(other currencies converted into shekels)

WELCOME HOME FUND

NIS 36 in honor of the bar mitzva of Jerry Nathan Kadon of Queensbury, NY — from the Dubia family.
NIS 10 Esther Rosenstein, Netanya.
\$180 Interactive Business Services, Bayside, NY.
\$80 In memory of Moshe and Gitte Glickman — Mitch Haviv, Oceanside, NY.

\$50 Ruth Lawrence, Ann Arbor, MI.
\$25 Edward Hyde, Columbia, SC.
\$12 In memory of my mother, Frances Ginsburg — Wayne Ginsburg, Flushing, NY.
Sw.Fr.180 In cherished memory of our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Bertha Kossoy nee Jablonowski on the 13th anniversary of her death (Iyar 5) — Kossoy and Ory-Kossoy families, Geneva and Kiryat Krimza.

New Progress
Donations
NIS 471 NIS 22,546
\$347 \$6,349
(other currencies converted into shekels)

Reflecting his liberal tendencies,

a large number of the bills he has proposed or passed concern taxes and insurance, particularly for the self-employed. And a large number of laws were also concerned with environmental issues — such as demanding a deposit on cans and bottles and being able to confiscate the driving license of someone found illegally dumping construction waste. He also fought to close the Reading power station, not far from his home in north Tel Aviv.

Poraz has been praised for the law under which reserve soldiers no longer need a special permit from their IDF unit before leaving the country. And he is also behind the laws restricting the amounts of money a political candidate can receive for primary election campaigns (a system he hates as much as he favors direct elections for premier).

He also has a history of successfully petitioning the High Court of Appeals. It started when he was a Tel Aviv city councillor and he petitioned against the decision of candidate for Tel Aviv chief rabbi (and now national Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi) Yisrael Lau who said he would not run if the board which elects the rabbis included a woman. He has petitioned against Ariel Sharon's use of emergency regulations to justify massive building after the wave of immigration without regular planning

and environmental reviews. He managed to stop the allocation of special lands to haredi groups without tenders. (He also fought to stop special allocations of funds to haredi parties.) Poraz also challenged the decision to stop Israel Television broadcasts on Shabbat after the Gulf war.

Currently, he is trying to promote legislation, which he knows has no chance of passing, which would abolish the chief rabbinate altogether. "It goes against the spirit of Judaism. There is no pope in Judaism. The chief rabbis are not even considered halachically superior and are elected, politically, by secular people. Even the religious have their own rabbis who take precedence — like Ovadia Yosef or Rabbi Schach. I think religious services such as burials and weddings should be supplied by local councils like they provide electricity and water."

Poraz is used to being accused of being antireligious, a charge he denies: "I know it sounds clichéd but I'm not against religion or the religious, but I am against religious coercion," he says. "I, for example, would equally fight to make sure someone wasn't fired for not working on Shabbat and to

PORAZ

Continued from Page 9

ensure that food in the IDF and in hospitals is kosher." He does not object to shopping malls being forced to close on Shabbat, partly to protect the small traders, but wants to leave places of entertainment open.

Although he has often been attacked in the Knesset plenum by the Right and religious MKs, nearly all of them recall the time he went in the face of Meretz and Labor two years ago and agreed to be absent for the vote on the Golan Heights Law to pair off with Likud MK Haim Kaufman who was dying of cancer.

Although Meretz and Labor, including prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, said there could be no such matches on such a crucial vote, Poraz stood firm. "When I heard that the Likud would bring in Kaufman on a stretcher for the vote because nobody would pair off with him I decided I couldn't let the Knesset be demeaned by such a sight." The vote was a tie. Kaufman died shortly after.

National Religious Party faction chairman Hanan Porat at the time called Poraz "a gentleman."

Today he says: "I respect Poraz for his integrity and his work as a parliamentarian but lately, unfortunately, he has become carried away with unseemly gimmicks."

Poraz was born in Romania and arrived here at the age of five. He studied at the Alliance School in Ramat Aviv and is still happier using French than English as a foreign language. After his IDF service as an investigator in the military police, Poraz earned money as a film projectionist. Watching films, particularly old French movies, is still a favorite pastime of his. Having been head of the project which established commercial and cable television, he also, naturally, likes the small screen and is a huge fan of *Rumpole* and *Yes, Prime Minister*.

Although he has some criticism of Channel 2, he says: "You can't expect it not to be bound by ratings. It's like asking a fish not to be dependent on water. Ratings is the oxygen of commercial television. On the whole, I think that Channel 2 is a success. If for nothing else, I think it is important that it created an alternative source of television news. I strongly believe in pluralism."

If his own fight to return Shinui to the Knesset fails, he says he will go back to his legal practice, but he insists on trying to get Shinui in, despite the difficulties and hard work. "It's a challenge," he says. "But like they say in French: 'Qui ne risque pas, ne gagne pas.' If you don't take a chance, you don't win."

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Betar look to wear crown in festive J'lem derby

By ORI LEWIS

Betar Jerusalem are in a unique position of being able to clinch their third National League crown in a derby match when they meet Hapoel tomorrow evening.

The clash at Teddy Stadium is certain to be packed solid as the emotions of the fans of the two archrivals bubble over, not too far from the surface.

The Jerusalem derby is always a special occasion in local soccer and many a story has been told by grandparent to grandchild of the games played at the old Katamon and YMCA grounds.

Probably only half of the expected 13,000 fans will remember the days of old - Katamon was abandoned for redevelopment in the 'seventies and YMCA some six years ago - when spectators used to scale high fences and sit in the trees as they tried to be a part of the occasion.

In the 'seventies it was Hapoel which ruled the capital, as Betar were emerging from the lower divisions, now the tables are turned. Hapoel have done very well to secure their place in the league for at least another season despite serious financial difficulties. Betar, on the other hand, have proved to be almost invincible this season.

Many of the grandchildren of today - among the Betar supporters - will be probably be able to tell their own grandchildren in several decades' time that they were there when the boys in yellow won the league - and they did it in the

Jerusalem derby.

The match kicks off at 17:45, and Betar could already be crowned champions before the final whistle if Hapoel Petah Tikva, who play away to Maccabi Haifa, and Hapoel Beersheba, who visit Maccabi Petah Tikva drop points.

The relegation battle still rages, with three matches to go, Zahirim Holon and Hapoel Tel Aviv are still in desperate trouble. Holon currently occupy 15th spot and could join Hapoel Tel Aviv in the Second Division next season if they lose to Hapoel Haifa at home today, while Hapoel Tel Aviv beat Bnei Yehuda at home tomorrow. The goal difference greatly favors the Tel Avivians.

The Second Division promotion race is also at boiling point and today Hapoel Ashdod can secure a place in the National League for the first time in their history if they can at least draw with Ironi Ashdod at home.

The only problem is that their opponents are the Ashdodis, who must win in order to keep ahead of Maccabi Netanya in the fight for the second promotion spot. Both sides have 54 points - six behind Ashdod, with just two matches (including today's) remaining.

This weekend's National League fixtures: Zahirim Holon v Hapoel Haifa, Holon, today 16:30; Maccabi Petah Tikva v Hapoel Beersheba, Petah Tikva, tomorrow 16:00; Hapoel Beersheba v Maccabi Haifa, Beersheba, today 16:00; Ironi Ashdod v Hapoel Ashdod, Ashdod, today 16:30; Hapoel Tel Aviv v Hapoel Haifa, Tel Aviv, tomorrow 17:45; Hapoel Tel Aviv v Bnei Yehuda, Bnei Yehuda, tomorrow 17:45; Hapoel Ashdod v Ironi Ashdod, Ashdod, tomorrow 18:00; Hapoel Haifa v Hapoel Beersheba, Haifa, tomorrow 18:00.



ROUGH AND TUMBLE - Miami Heat guard Tim Hardaway (10) falls after being fouled by New York Knicks' guard Chris Childs in first-quarter action of their playoff game in Miami.

Heat beats Knicks in ugly game to bring series to 3-2

MIAMI (Reuters) - Voshon Lenard scored 12 of his 21 points in the third quarter as the Miami Heat literally brawled their way to a 96-81 victory over the New York Knicks in their Eastern Conference semifinal series on Wednesday.

The Heat overcame another poor performance by Alonzo Mourning and trail 3-2 in the best-of-seven series.

One of the ugliest playoff games in memory was capped by a brawl between the bitter rivals. Four players were ejected, including three Knicks, who left under a shower of debris from the Miami arena crowd.

Game Six today in New York as Miami tries to become just the sixth team in NBA history to overcome a 3-1 deficit.

The winner faces Chicago in the conference finals.

Miami's P.J. Brown had 18 points and 12 rebounds before he was ejected with 1:53 remaining. Brown flipped Knicks guard Charles Ward off of bounds, bringing players from both teams onto the court. There was plenty of shoving before order was restored.

John Starks scored 21 points off the bench and Patrick Ewing added 15 for the Knicks, who became the first team to allow 90 points in the series. New York lost for just the second time in eight playoff games.

After a terrible first half by both teams, the Heat snapped out of their offensive funk with a big third quarter behind Lenard, who was 5-of-5 from the field in the period.

Lenard had six points in a 12-2 burst that gave Miami control for good. After a hook by Ewing closed the deficit to 48-46 with 5:16 remaining, Dan Majerle and Lenard hit three-pointers.

Ewing dunked, but Lenard made a three-point play for a 57-48 lead with 3:37 left. A jumper by Tim Hardaway and free throw by Majerle widened the advantage to 60-50 with 2:43 to go.

New York trailed 66-59 after three quarters and closed to 74-72 on a jump hook by Ewing with 6:16 to play. But Mourning made a hook, Lenard hit a three-pointer, Brown sank two free throws and Majerle made a three-pointer, giving Miami an 84-72 lead with 3:21 remaining.

Temperatures have been simmering all series and finally boiled over.

It began in the third quarter, with Starks pounding his chest and shouting at Heat players. With 1:55 to play in the fourth and the Heat in control, there was a shoving match between Mourning and Knicks forward Charles Oakley, who was ejected.

Brown and Knicks guard Chris Childs - teammates last season on

the New Jersey Nets - exchanged words and a foul stopped play two seconds later. On Hardaway's second foul shot, Brown picked up Ward and flipped him head-over-heels into the photographs along the baseline. Brown, Ward and Starks all were ejected.

The league is expected to review the tape of the incident, which could lead to suspensions.

Hardaway shot just 3-of-17 from the field but scored 16 points. Mourning added 13 on 4-of-12 shooting, but the Heat held a 42-31 edge in rebounds.

Allan Houston scored 15 points for the Knicks, who were 3-of-14 from three-point range and committed 21 turnovers.

The teams combined for 69 points, one more than the lowest half ever, and 26 points in the second quarter, the third-worst total.

Miami made just 12-of-40 shots - and led, 35-34. The Heat began quickly, racing to a 13-2 lead on Brown's layup with 6:45 remaining in the first quarter. But it took them another 14 minutes to score their next 13 points.

Mourning, plagued by foul trouble the entire series, went to the bench with one basket in eight attempts and his third foul with 7:11 left.

SCOREBOARD

TENNIS - Italian Open results yesterday: singles, third round: Alberto Berasategui, Spain, def. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (4), Russia, 6-3, 6-2; Marc Kiebo, Germany, def. Albert Costa (11), Spain, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4; Jim Courier, United States, def. Jace Rossie (15), Switzerland, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3; Alex Corretja (10), Spain, def. Carlos Moyes (8), Spain, 6-4, 6-4; Marcelo Rios (7), Chile, def. Magnus Larsson, Sweden, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4; Goran Ivankovic (6), Croatia, def. Boris Becker (12), Germany, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3; Scott Draper, Australia, def. Davide Sola, Italy, 6-5, 6-2; Karim Alami, Morocco, def. Sergi Bruguera, Spain, 3-6, 6-2, 7-5.

SPORTS

in brief

Swimmers compete at Haifa Cup meet

The best of Israel's swimmers will face international competition in the Haifa Cup tournament today and tomorrow at the Technion pool.

Swimmers from Hungary and Ukraine have arrived specially for the event, while others from Belarus, Kazakhstan and the US, currently residing in Israel, will also participate.

Dennis Silantiev from Ukraine will be the name to beat in the butterfly with Belarus's Valery Stahochenko a force in the breaststroke.

Among the local entrants are Olympians Yoav Bruck and Vadim Alexeev, as well as Eran Garuni, Yoav Gat, Mickey Halika, Dov Melnick, Ehud Dekker and Uri Stif. The heats will be held in the mornings with the finals at 5.15 p.m.

Heather Chait

Palace, Sheff Utd to vie for premier league spot

LONDON (Reuters) - Crystal Palace earned a place in the English first division playoffs for the second successive year when they held off a determined challenge by Wolverhampton on Wednesday night.

The London club will meet Sheffield United, winners on the away goals rule over Ipswich, at Wembley on May 26 for a place in the premier league.

The match at Ipswich ended 2-2 after extra time following a 1-1 draw in the first leg last weekend.

Wolves won 2-1 on the night but Palace took the two-leg play-off by dint of their 3-1 victory in the first leg.

PSG goalkeeper Lama gets 5-month ban

PARIS (Reuters) - Paris St Germain goalkeeper Bernard Lama was banned for five months, three suspended, for doping by the French Football Federation (FFF) yesterday.

Lama, who tested positive for cannabis while training with the French national team in February, will begin the suspension from the moment he receives a letter of notification, expected today, a FFF spokesman said.

All-female yacht crew readies to break records

SOUTHAMPTON (AP) - Yachtswoman Tracy Edwards and an all-female crew set sail for New York yesterday to prepare for a challenge on the transatlantic speed record.

The 34-year-old skipper and her seven crew left Hamble, near Southampton, on a 28-meter catamaran which they plan to test on the westbound voyage.

Edwards, who skipped the first all-female crew in the Whitbread Round the World race, expects to arrive in New York in about three weeks.

The crew will then wait for the most favorable weather conditions to return to Britain and challenge the west to east trans-Atlantic record of six days, 13 hours and 3 minutes set by Frenchman Serge Mader in 1990.

The crossing will be the first in a triple challenge for the women and their boat.

In August, they will try to beat the Round Britain and Ireland record and at the end of the year they will compete for the Jules Verne Trophy for the fastest non-stop circumnavigation of the world.

O'Brien's 3 homers lead Blue Jays past Tigers

DETROIT (Reuters) - Charlie O'Brien hit three home runs for the Toronto Blue Jays, including a grand slam, to give Pat Hentgen his fourth straight victory, a 7-2 win over the Detroit Tigers on Wednesday.

Hentgen (4-1) allowed two unearned runs in the first inning and not much else. He struck out eight and walked one in his second complete game of the season.

In his last three starts - all wins - the 1996 American League Cy Young Award winner has an ERA of 0.00, allowing three unearned runs in 26 innings.

Royals 6, Red Sox 2

In Kansas City, Jose Offerman and Jay Bell each knocked in two runs in the seventh inning as the Kansas City Royals handed the Boston Red Sox their sixth straight loss, 6-2.

Chili Davis had two hits, including a homer, and Offerman and Tom Goodwin each had two hits for Kansas City, which has won six of its last nine games and improved to 4-0 against Boston this season.

Yankees 6, Twins 5

At Minnesota, Paul O'Neill doubled in the tying run with two outs in the ninth inning and drilled an

opposite-field homer in the 12th to rally the New York Yankees to their fourth straight win, a 6-5 victory over the Minnesota Twins.

The Yankees have won seven of their last eight games and handed the Twins their 17th loss in 21 games.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Marlins 4, Braves 3

In Atlanta, Kurt Abbott doubled home the tying run in the top of the seventh inning and Edgar Renteria followed with an RBI single as the Florida Marlins held on for their fourth straight win, 4-3 over the Atlanta Braves.

Kevin Brown got the win, allowing three runs and seven hits in six innings. He helped himself by scoring twice, including the tie-breaking run in the seventh.

Dodgers 6, Cubs 4

In Chicago, Nelson Lirio's two-run homer off Mel Rojas in the ninth inning lifted the Los Angeles Dodgers to a come-from-behind 6-4 victory over the Chicago Cubs.

Eric Anthony led off the ninth with a double off Rojas.

After a sacrifice by Juan Castro, Lirio hit his first homer of the season to snap a 4-4 tie.

National League

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	38	18	.682	-
Florida	28	18	.611	3
Montreal	26	18	.591	5
New York	20	19	.513	8
Philadelphia	14	24	.368	14

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Pittsburgh	20	19	.526	-
Houston	21	19	.526	-
St. Louis	17	21	.447	3
Chicago	11	26	.297	8
Cincinnati	11	26	.297	8

West Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	28	13	.683	-
Colorado	22	15	.595	1 1/2
Los Angeles	21	15	.583	2
San Diego	14	22	.388	8

American League

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	25	12	.676	-
New York	22	15	.595	3
Toronto	20	17	.541	5
Detroit	18	22	.450	8
Boston	15	22	.405	10

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	19	18	.514	-
Kansas City	18	19	.486	1
Chicago	16	19	.450	2
Minnesota	14	22	.389	5 1/2
West Division	15	23	.395	6

East Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Texas	4	18	.182	-
Cleveland	3	18	.143	1
Los Angeles	3	18	.143	1
San Diego	2	18	.100	2
Oakland	1	18	.053	3

Wednesday's NL games: Montreal 5, San Diego 7; Los Angeles 6, Chicago Cubs 4; St. Louis 12, Philadelphia 3; Houston 1, NY Mets 0; Pittsburgh 15, Colorado 10; Florida 4, Atlanta 3; San Francisco 4, Cincinnati 2, 10 innings.

Thursday's AL games: Toronto 7, Detroit 2; NY Yankees 6, Minnesota 5, 12 innings; Texas 4, Cleveland 3, 10 innings; Kansas City 6, Boston 2; Oakland 7, Milwaukee 4; Anaheim 6, Baltimore 5; Seattle 5, Chicago White Sox 7.

National League

Team	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	Diff.	Pts
Betar Jerusalem	27	20	4	3	57	18	41	64
Hapoel Beersheba	27	18	2	7	43	23	20	58
Maccabi Petah Tikva	27	13	8	6	38	22	16	47
Maccabi Tel Aviv	27	13	8	6	35	30	5	45
Maccabi Haifa	27	10	9	8	35	30	5	38
Hapoel Kiryat Sava	27	10	7	10	30	30	0	37
Hapoel Haifa	27	10	6	11	29	31	-2	36
Bnei Yehuda	27	9	8	10	25	34	-9	35
Ironi Ashdod	27	9	12	6	24	44	-20	33
Hapoel Jerusalem	27	9	6	12	28	37	-9	32
Hapoel Be'er Sheva	27	8	6	13	24	29	-5	30
Maccabi Herzliya	27	8	3	15	17	25	-8	30
Hapoel Tel Aviv	27	6	8	13	15	29	-14	24
Zahirim Holon	27	4	2	21	17	37	-20	14
Hapoel Tel Aviv	27	4	2	21	17	37	-20	14

Second Division

Team	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	Diff.	Pts
Hapoel Ashdod	28	18	6	4	46	13	33	60
Ironi Ashdod	28	18	6	4	45	24	21	54
Maccabi Netanya	28	16	6	6	51	32	19	54
Hapoel Ramat Gan	28	12	7	9	36	25	10	43
Maccabi Jaffa	28	11	9	8	32	24	8	41
Maccabi Kfar Kana	28	11	6	11	42	37	5	39
Hapoel Ramat Gan	28	10	9	9	26	27	-1	38
Betar Tel Aviv	28	9	11	8	29	21	8	36
Maccabi Acre	28	7	11	10	24	27	-3	32
Maccabi Kiryat Gat	28	7	11	10	22	34	-12	32
Hapoel Ashdod	28	6	7	13	28	31	-3	31
Hapoel Kiryat Shmona	28	6	13	10	20	31	-11	28
Maccabi Netanya	28	7	7	14	27	42	-15	28
Maccabi Yavne	28	6	4	18	23	49	-26	28
Hapoel Hadera	28	4	11	13	23	38	-15	23

Liverpool say no to Bann

LONDON - Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier has said that his club would not be interested in signing the Irish international Paul Doolan.

Houllier, who has been in charge of the Reds since January, said that Doolan, who is 28, was not in his plans for the summer transfer window.

Doolan, who has played for several clubs in the past, including Tottenham, Everton and Manchester City, has been linked with a move to Liverpool.

Houllier said that Doolan was not in his plans for the summer transfer window.

Beersheba supporters want coach Eli Guttman out now

By ORI LEWIS

Furious Hapoel Beersheba fans were last night calling for the immediate dismissal of coach Eli Guttman after announcing in midweek that he would be leaving the club at the end of the season.

Guttman had told club presi-

dent Eli Lahav in confidence that he would be moving to take over as coach of Hapoel Haifa next season, but news soon leaked out and the fans were furious.

Despite their anger, Beersheba fans have little to complain about as Guttman has done a good job at Beersheba and they are certain to finish second or third in the National League

standings. They have also reached the State Cup final and will attempt to win the trophy for the first time when they face Maccabi Tel Aviv in the final on May 27.

Lahav has taken Guttman's leaving in his stride and has already begun searching for a new coach.

Currently in the frame is Gili

Landau, who is negotiating with the club. Another candidate, Benny Tabak, dropped out of the running after failing to agree financial terms with Beersheba.

Dror Kashan looks to be heading back to Betar Jerusalem for his third stint in charge of the club. The parties are expected to meet next week to finalize a deal on the matter.

FA Cup Final still retains its magic - for now

By MIKE COLLETT

LONDON (Reuters) - Along with the World Cup and the European Champions Cup, the English FA Cup Final is revered by fans throughout the world as one of soccer's great showpiece occasions.

But a viewpoint, first expressed in the early 1990s, is gaining popularity. It is this: How much longer will the FA Cup, the oldest competition in world soccer, retain its undoubted allure and glamour?

The issue was first raised in 1993 by the English fanzine *When Saturday Comes*, which argued that the Cup Final was one of many end-of-season matches played by club teams at Wembley Stadium whereas once it was the only one.

Because the League Cup Final and promotion play-offs were now played under the Twin Towers, the special nature of the Cup Final was being undermined.

Now, in 1997, its position is under threat from a totally different source - the expansion of the European Cup, or as UEFA, European soccer's ruling body, likes it to be

known, the Champions League.

The argument runs that the European Cup-Champions League is now a far more lucrative money-spinner than the FA Cup Final can ever be, and that clubs in the major European countries would rather finish second in their domestic league championships than win their domestic cup competitions and go into the far less prestigious Cup Winners Cup.

Consequently they are more likely to field weaker teams in Cup matches, devaluing their cup competitions by concentrating more on their league programs.

In Italy, for example, the Coppa Italia has always been a poor second to the league, but until very recently the English Cup was perceived as being sacrosanct and held a revered place in fans' affections around the world.

Tomorrow's match is being televised live on or tape delay to 184 countries worldwide and more than one billion people will see the goals that eventually decide the outcome of the match between Chelsea and Middlesbrough. But the people who run the clubs, the chairmen and the managers, may take a different viewpoint.

Alex Ferguson, whose Manchester United

side have just won the English League for the fourth time in five seasons, has fielded weakened teams in the English League Cup for the last three seasons. Does he dare do the same in the FA Cup?

In England the season's biggest crowds are often recorded at FA Cup matches. Even Manchester United, had an attendance of 55,342 for their fourth round match against poorly-supported Wimbledon in January - their biggest crowd of the season apart from their Champions League match against Juventus.

There is no doubt the Cup is part of the English social psyche, much as it has been since it first began to capture the public's imagination when it began in the 1871-72 season.

Second Division Chesterfield's run to the semifinals this season galvanized the town in a way that nothing has done since the spire on the town's main church started to bend into a bizarre, crooked apparition 400 years ago.

Fans who normally only watch matches on TV will travel the length and breadth of the country to go to a Cup match.

Tottenham fans dress up as cockerels, Hereford fans as Bulls and Norwich fans

have been known to don Canary outfits. And then travel on a train for three hours.

It is the one competition in which fantasy regularly replaces reality. How else can Chesterfield's appearance in the semifinal be explained? For that matter, how else can relegated Middlesbrough's appearance in the Cup Final be rationalized?

The FA Cup celebrates its 125th anniversary this year and is one of the great rallying points for fans around the world.

In the United States and Canada, pubs and bars open for Cup Final breakfasts. In Australia, the Perth branch of the Western Australian Roof Drinking Association are famous for hoisting television sets on the roofs of houses and holding special late-night Cup Final roof-drinking parties, watching live action from London 12,000 miles away, under southern skies.

Just about every overseas player who comes to play in England says at their introductory news conference their dream is to play in the Cup Final at Wembley.

The Cup has a very special place in the heart of all soccer fans and those men who now run European and English soccer know they have a duty to the fans to ensure it retains that place.

Fans go on hunger strike for Azharuddin

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - Fans of Indian cricket captain Mohammad Azharuddin are staging a hunger strike, demanding that he be reinstated to the national team.

The fans, who are demanding Azharuddin's reinstatement, are protesting against the decision of the Indian Cricket Board to suspend him for alleged involvement in a match-fixing scandal.

The fans are demanding that the Indian Cricket Board should reinstate Azharuddin to the national team.

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